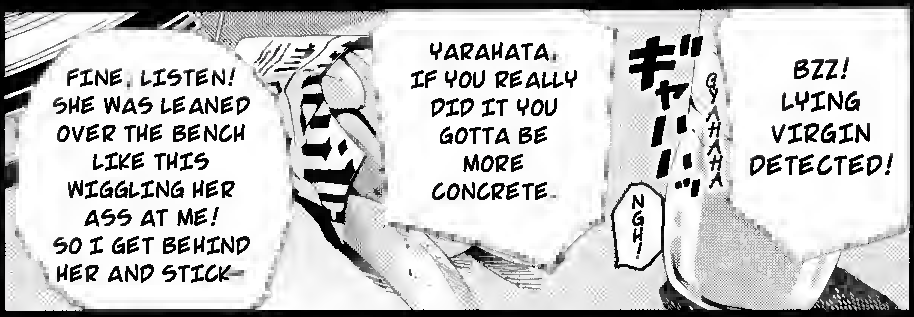
LOVE Theory
Masaki Satou
[Original Story]
Keiya Mizuno

SUMMER OF SENIOR YEAR

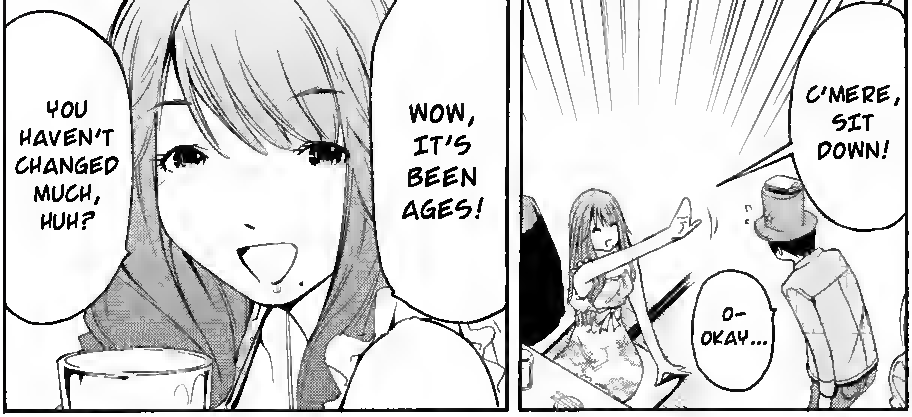
LECTURE 9

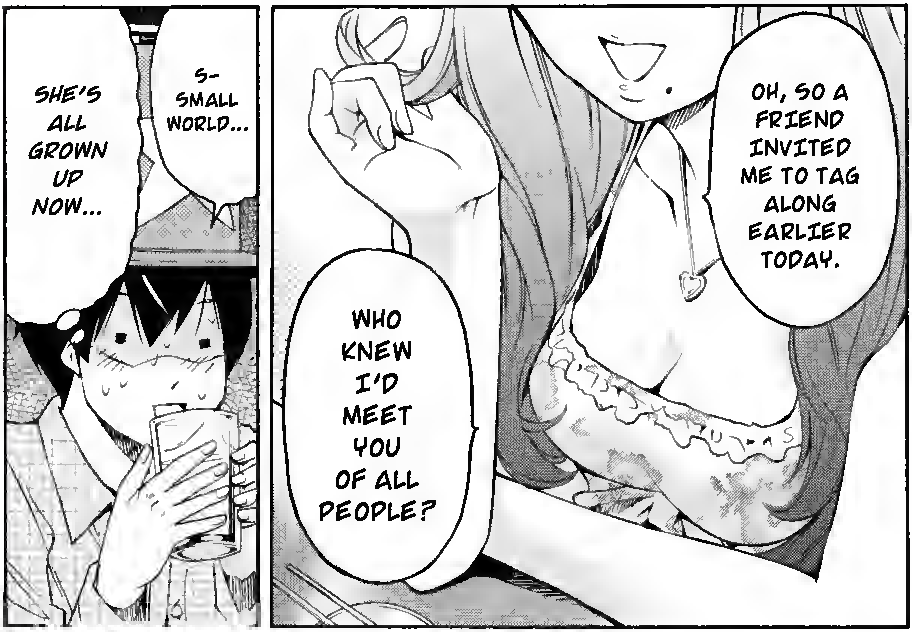
THE "HAMA-CHAN" THEORY

THE MIMI STOP FOOD COURT INCIDENT


BZZ! LYING VIRGIN DETECTED!
GYAHAHA
NGH!
YARAHATA. IF YOU REALLY DID IT YOU GOTTA BE MORE CONCRETE.
FINE. LISTEN! SHE WAS LEANED OVER THE BENCH LIKE THIS WIGGLING HER ASS AT ME! SO I GET BEHIND HER AND STICK—

I THOUGHT SO.
YOU'RE YARAHATA.
NA-NAKAYAMA-SAN...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

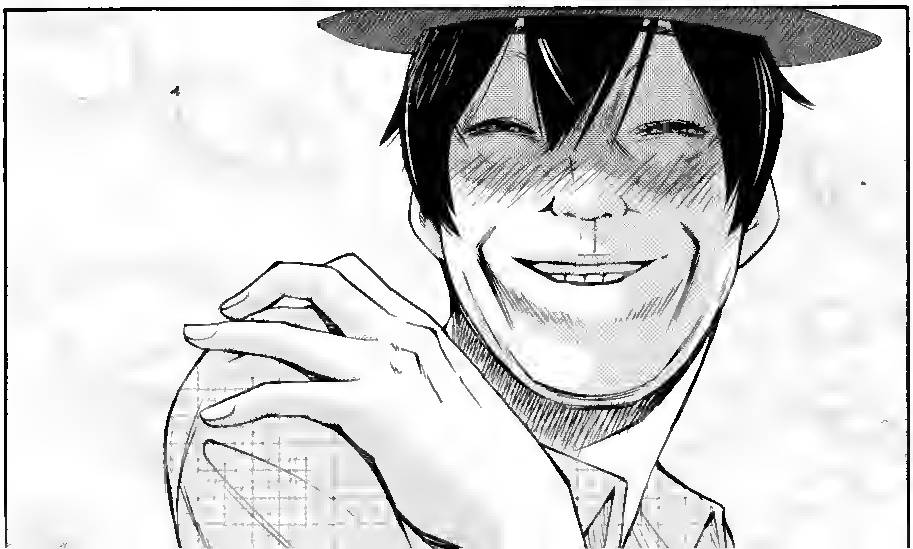

WOW, IT'S BEEN AGES!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH, HUH?
C'MERE, SIT DOWN!
O-OKAY...

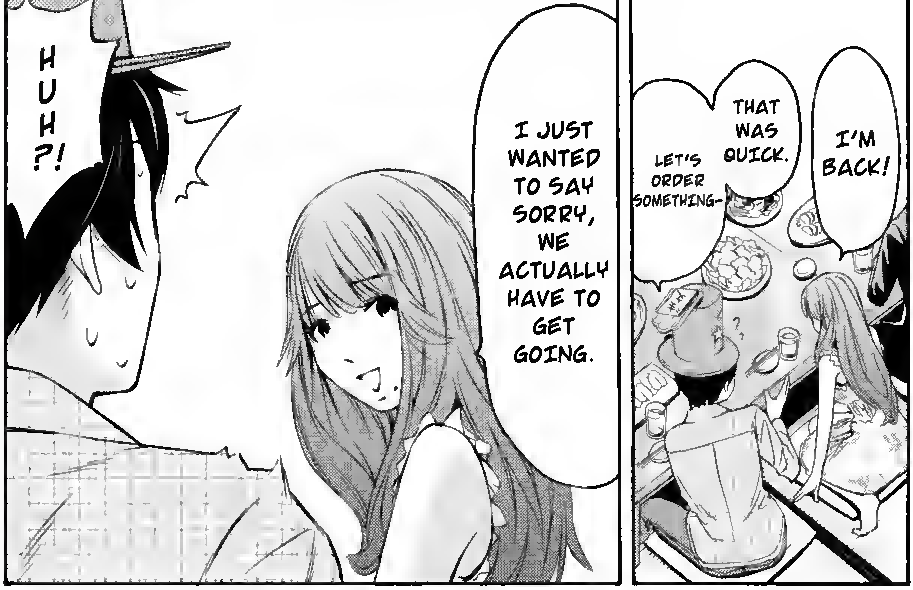

S-SMALL WORLD...
SHE'S ALL GROWN UP NOW...
OH, SO A FRIEND INVITED ME TO TAG ALONG EARLIER TODAY.
WHO KNEW I'D MEET YOU OF ALL PEOPLE?

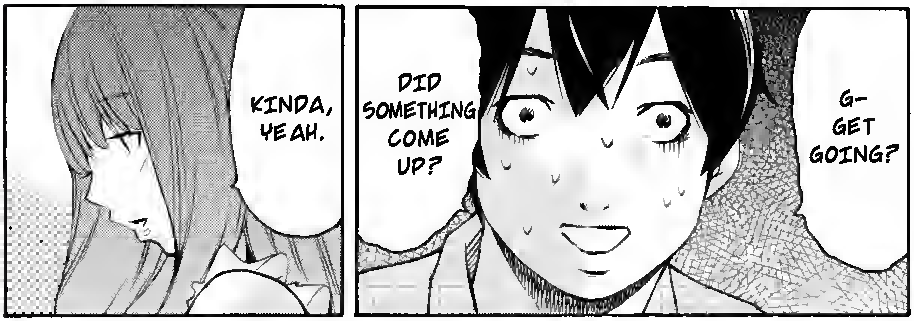
WHOA-
DON'T BLOW SMOKE WITH ME!
POP
NOW YOU, NAKAYAMA-SAN, I BET YOU'VE GOT EVERY GUY YOU MEET CHASING YOU.
N-NAH, I'M NOTHING SPECIAL ..
I BET ALL THE FRESHMAN GIRLS CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF YOU.
YOU'RE SO FUNNY, YARAHATA-KUN.

JUST KIDDING, THAT'S SWEET!
LUB DUB
HUP-
ONE SEC, GOTTA USE THE BATHROOM.
S-SURE.

SURE!
SAVE THAT SEAT!




I'M BACK!
THAT WAS QUICK.
LET'S ORDER SOMETHING-
I JUST WANTED TO SAY SORRY, WE ACTUALLY HAVE TO GET GOING.
HUH?!


G- GET GOING?
DID SOMETHING COME UP?
KINDA, YEAH.

KINDA? WHAT'S KINDA?! WHY SO SUDDENLY? DID I DO SOMETHING TO UPSET HER? DID I-
IT'S THE VIBES.
DWOAH, AIYA?!

HAMA-CHAN THEORY?
THE ONLY WAY TO SHIFT THE MOMENTUM BACK IS TO USE THE "HAMA-CHAN" THEORY.
WHEN A GIRL SUDDENLY GETS READY TO LEAVE IT'S BECAUSE THE LEADER OF HER GROUP'S PUTTING OUT VIBES THAT SHE WANTS TO GO.

合体
YOU, LIKE HAMA-CHAN, HAVE TO READ THE MOOD, FIGURE OUT WHO'S PULLING THE STRINGS, AND THEN MANIPULATE THEM FROM THE SHADOWS.
HAMA-CHAN IS THE STAR OF THE MANGA TSURIBAKA NISSHI.
THAT IS THE "HAMA-CHAN" THEORY.
WELL, IF IT'S HAMASAKI WE'LL JUST LET IT SLIDE.
STUCK IN A BORING OFFICE JOB, HAMASAKI DENSUKE (HAMA-CHAN)'S ONE PASSION IN LIFE IS FISHING. HE BEFRIENDS THE CEO OF HIS COMPANY SUU-SAN THROUGH FISHING, AND AS A RESULT CAN GET AWAY WITH PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING HE WANTS AT WORK.

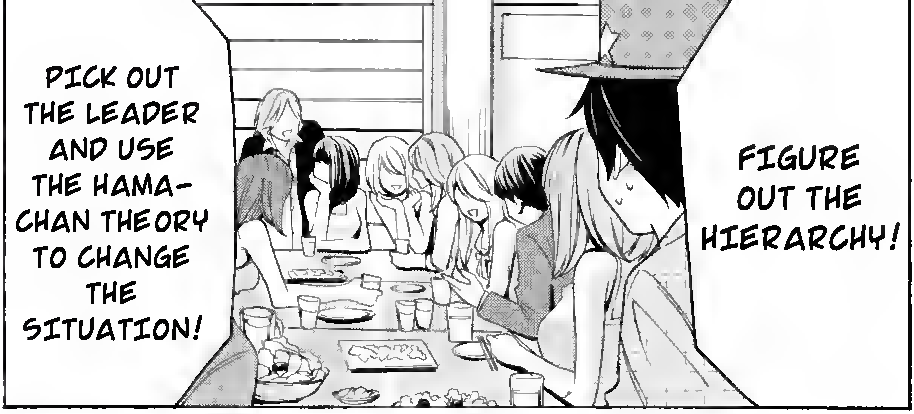
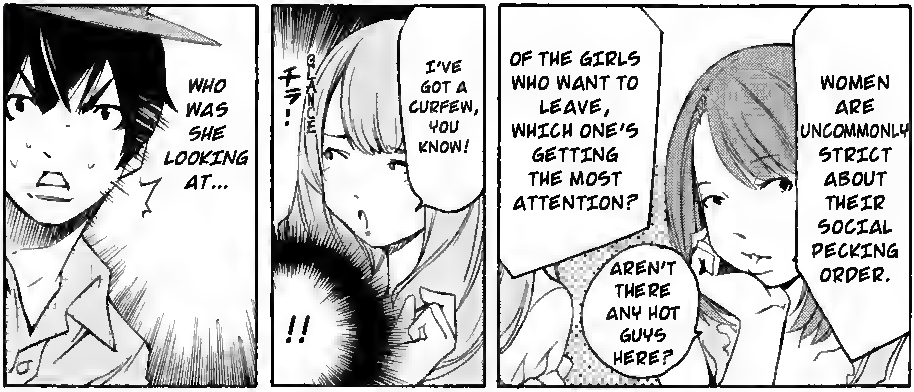


FIGURE OUT THE HIERARCHY!
PICK OUT THE LEADER AND USE THE HAMA-CHAN THEORY TO CHANGE THE SITUATION!

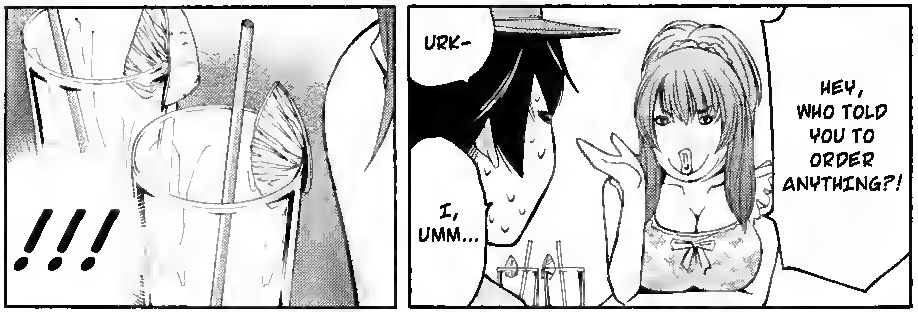

WOMEN ARE UNCOMMONLY STRICT ABOUT THEIR SOCIAL PECKING ORDER.
OF THE GIRLS WHO WANT TO LEAVE, WHICH ONE'S GETTING THE MOST ATTENTION?
AREN'T THERE ANY HOT GUYS HERE?
I'VE GOT A CURFEW, YOU KNOW!
チラ!
!!
WHO WAS SHE LOOKING AT...

I MEAN... THAT?!
DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SOMETIMES THE UGLIEST OF DUCKLINGS BECOMES LEADER OF THE FLOCK.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.
COMING.
CRAP!

HERO
YUH-HUH.

YARAHATA?
HUH?!
LEMON SOUR OVER HERE, PLEASE!
BING BONG
注文
ORDER


!!!
URK-
I, UMM...
HEY, WHO TOLD YOU TO ORDER ANYTHING?!

S-SORRY.
IT JUST SEEMED LIKE YOU REALLY ENJOYED THE TWO YOU DRANK ALREADY, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT ONE MORE.

BUT NOW I'VE GOT SOME TIME...
TOO CLOSE...
WHOA, YARAHATA, NOTHING GETS BY YOU, HUH?
YUH-HUH.
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL DRINK A LITTLE MORE
GREAT! HAHAHA!
ONE SEC!
YARAHATA!
HEY, NONE OF US HAVE EXCHANGED CONTACT INFO YET!
YUH-HUH.
GOOD CALL, LET'S DO IT!
I DID IT, I GOT HER NUMBER!
BEEP
アドレスを登録しました。
中山 夏希
保存..
CONTACT TRANSFERRING
NAKAYAMA NATSUKI
SAVING .
WHAA?
NUH-UH, YOU'RE GONNA CHUG 'EM!
HAHAHA, DO IT, DO IT!
YOU REALLY WANNA DRINK THAT MUCH?
O-OKAY!
YARAHATA, THREE MORE LEMON SOURS!

HAAA!

CLAMBER

OH...
HOW DRUNK ARE YOU? EVERYONE'S GOING TO THE AFTER-PARTY!

WAS IT ALL JUST A DREAM?
HIC

MY HERO.
OH HO, YOU'RE AFTER NAKAYAMA, HUH?

NAH, SHE WENT HOME WITH HER GROUP.
NAKAYAMA-SAN?

I FINALLY HAD MY CHANCE AND I PASSED OUT...
HAAAGH...
頭？？痛が
MY HEAD HURTS-
I WOULDN'T BOTHER, THOUGH, SHE KEEPS A TIGHT GUARD UP.
SEE YA THERE
O... KAY...

REMEMBER, A MIXER'S ONLY A MIXER ONCE YOU ACTUALLY TEXT ONE ANOTHER!
THAT'S RIGHT, MY PHONE!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
YOU DOOFUS!
THE REAL BATTLE STARTS NOW!
THWACK
OOF-
SINCE YOU WERE IN A COMA, I, AIYA, CRAFTED THE PERFECT TEXT AND SENT IT TO NAKAYAMA-SAN IN YOUR STEAD.
HAVE NO FEAR.

BEEP BEEP
GOTTA LOVE HAVING A ROMANCE TEACHER!
SPEED IS KING AT TIMES LIKE THESE.
YOU DID?!

SENT ITEMS
IT'S YARAHATA! TONIGHT WAS A BLAST. NATSUKI-CHAN, YOU'RE SO CUTE! I TALKED WITH PEOPLE FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS BUT THE SECOND I SAW YOU, MY IMAGINATION JUST RAN WILD! YOU ARE GORGEOUS.
YOU WANNA GRAB SOME JJIGAE AFTER THIS?
YARAHATA AND JJIGAE, CAN'T BEAT THAT!
SAY YES!

SHE'S GONNA THINK I'M JUST OUT TO GET LAID, SHE'LL NEVER RESPOND!
THIS TEXT IS SO SHALLOW!
WHAT IN THE BLUE HELL IS THIS?!

IT'S CALLED...
THIS SEEMINGLY SHALLOW TEXT IS BUILT UPON A LOVE THEORY.
HUH?
THE RESPONSE ITSELF IS WHAT WE'RE AFTER.

THE "WARRIOR'S EDICT" THEORY!

"FIRST" IS THE OPERATIVE WORD.
IT'S THE FIRST ACT OF PRIVATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.
THE FIRST TEXT SENT AFTER A PARTY CARRIES A GREAT DEAL OF MEANING.

YOU'RE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO RECEIVE A REPLY-
IF YOU SIMPLY COME OFF AS WANTING TO BE FRIENDS. WHAT HAPPENS?
THUS IT IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO TAKE THE RIGHT STANCE.
IT WILL IMMEDIATELY MAKE CLEAR HOW YOU VIEW THE GIRL.
HAD A REALLY GREAT TIME TALKING TO YOU NAKAYAMA-SAN
WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER AGAIN SOON JUST AS FRIENDS OF COURSE

BUT

WHEN YOU FINALLY TRY TO PUT THE MOVES ON HER, YOU'VE GOT TO SHIFT FROM A FRIEND TO A MAN. THAT'S AN EXTREMELY HIGH HURDLE TO OVERCOME.
YEAH.
WOW, IT'S GETTING LATE.
WHY DON'T WE-
ONCE YOU'VE PUT YOURSELF IN THE FRIEND ZONE, EVEN IF YOU DO GO ON A DATE-

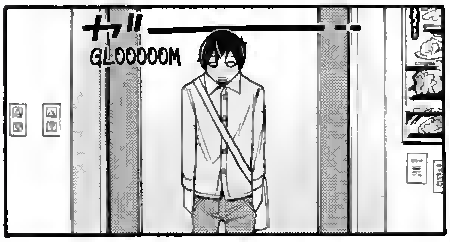
SIGH FRIEND
THAT'S WHY YOUR FIRST TEXT HAS TO MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR.
YOU DID!
HEAD HOME!
BADOOM
AND WHO SET THAT HURDLE IN YOUR WAY?

"I WANT YOU."

DECLARE WAR.
I AM MAN. YOU ARE WOMAN. I AM TRYING TO SEDUCE YOU.
THE MORE DIRECT YOU ARE, THE BETTER YOUR CHANCES.
AND IF SHE DOESN'T REPLY-

SHE DIDN'T REPLY.
YES, KACCHAN.
QUESTION.

AWWWW!
ADMIT DEFEAT WITH HONOR.
LET'S GET TO THE AFTER-PARTY.


GLOOOOOM

1

BLAH
BLAH
YAK
YAK
2F
HAAGH... I DON'T HAVE AN AFTER-PARTY IN ME...
BIG DISCOUNTS!

SNAP
JJIGAE?!
I THINK I'M PARTIED OUT-
YARAHATA, LET'S HIT UP SOME JJIGAE!

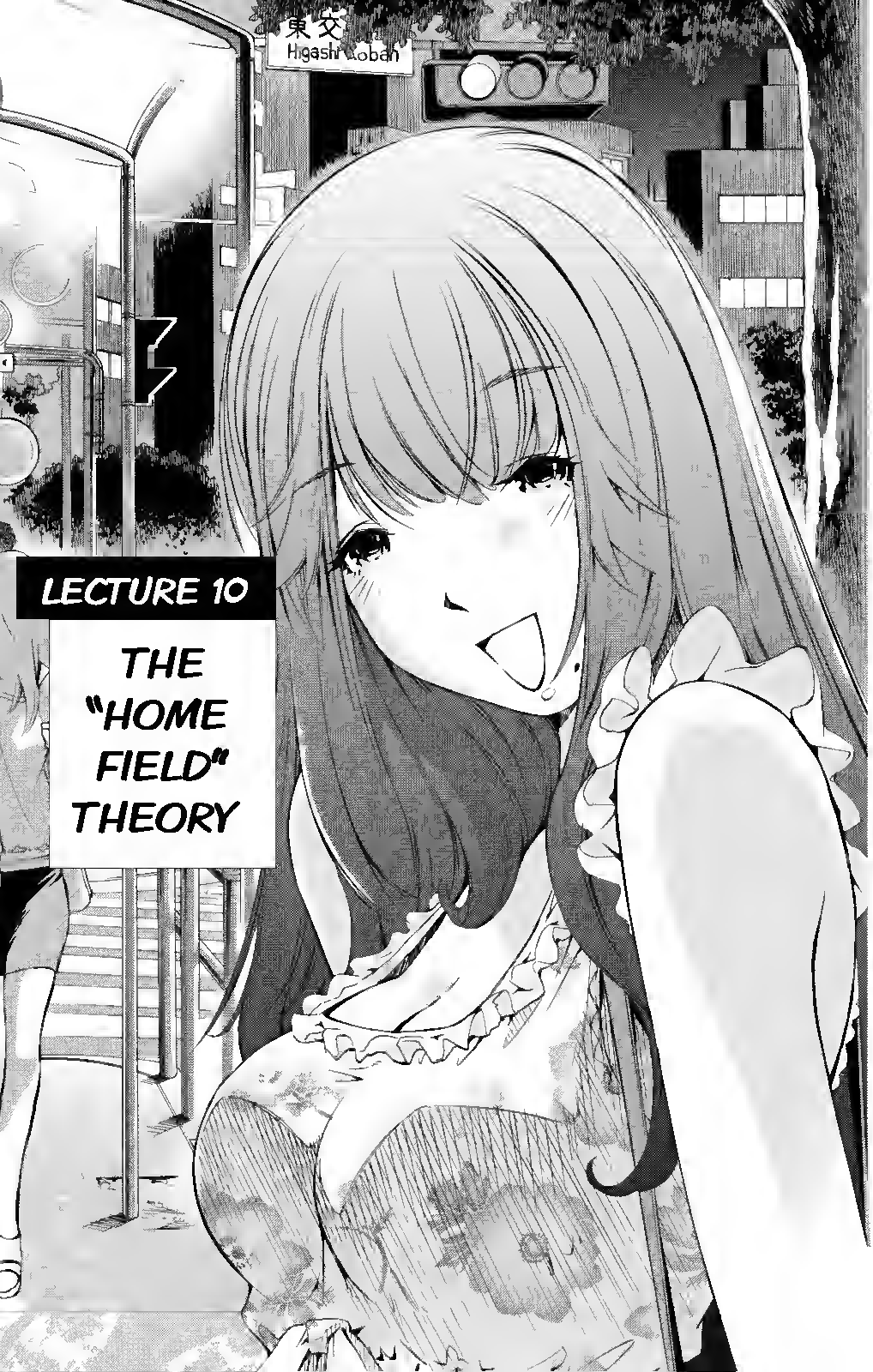
THIS CHAPTER'S THEORIES

THE "WARRIOR'S EDICT" THEORY

IN YOUR FIRST TEXT TO A GIRL, MAKE IT CLEAR YOU THINK SHE'S HOT AND THAT YOU WANT TO DATE HER.

THE "HAMA-CHAN" THEORY

FIND THE LEADER, CATER TO HER, AND CONTROL THE MOOD.

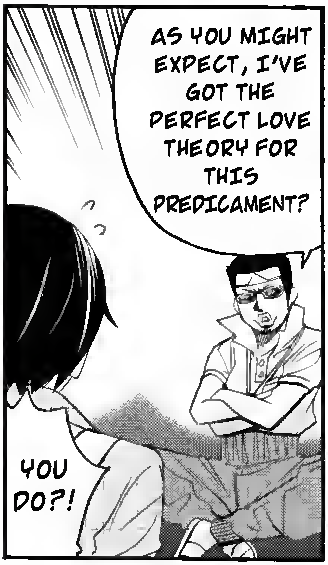


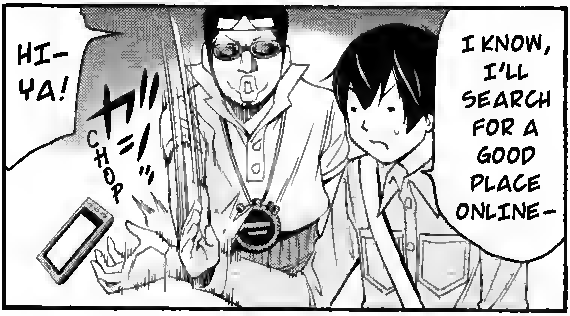
LECTURE 10

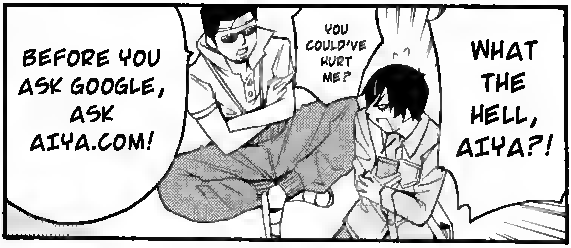
THE "HOME FIELD" THEORY

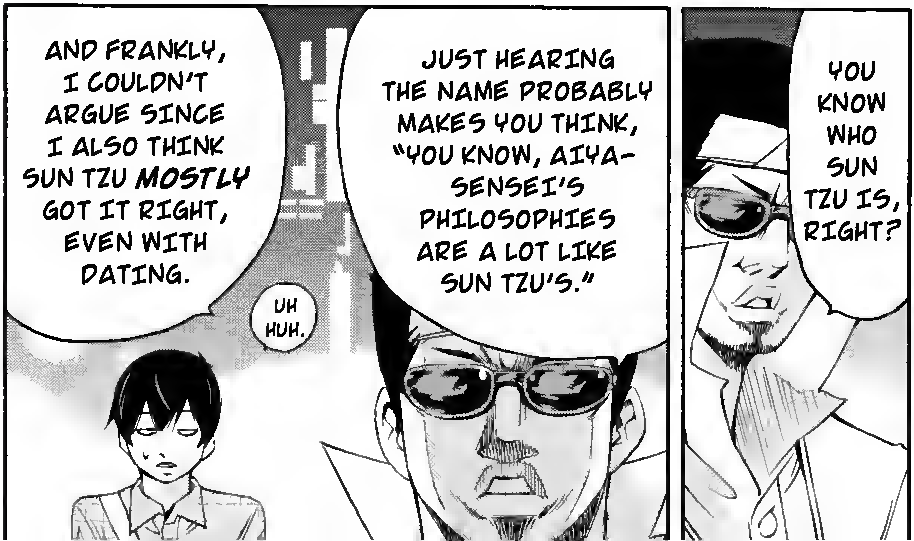
WHAT WAS WITH THAT SILLY TEXT?
ELBOW
AH, YOU KNOW...
I DIDN'T ACTUALLY WRITE IT.
BUT REGARDLESS, NAKAMURA-SAN AND I ARE OUT TOGETHER!
SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?
UH- UM...
YOU REALLY WANT JJIGAE?
HEY, WHERE THE HECK DO YOU GO AT THIS POINT?
WAS SHE SERIOUS ABOUT JJIGAE?
NAH, THAT'S MORE FOR OLD PEOPLE

DAMN IT, WHAT'S THE RIGHT CHOICE?
I COULD ASK HER WHERE SHE WANTS TO GO, BUT THEN I'D LOOK INDECISIVE AND WISHY-WASHY...


AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, I'VE GOT THE PERFECT LOVE THEORY FOR THIS PREDICAMENT?
YOU DO?!


HI-YA!
CHOP
I KNOW, I'LL SEARCH FOR A GOOD PLACE ONLINE-


BEFORE YOU ASK GOOGLE, ASK AIYA.COM!
YOU COULD'VE HURT ME?
WHAT THE HELL, AIYA?!


AND FRANKLY, I COULDN'T ARGUE SINCE I ALSO THINK SUN TZU MOSTLY GOT IT RIGHT, EVEN WITH DATING.
UH HUH.
JUST HEARING THE NAME PROBABLY MAKES YOU THINK, "YOU KNOW, AIYA-SENSEI'S PHILOSOPHIES ARE A LOT LIKE SUN TZU'S."
YOU KNOW WHO SUN TZU IS, RIGHT?

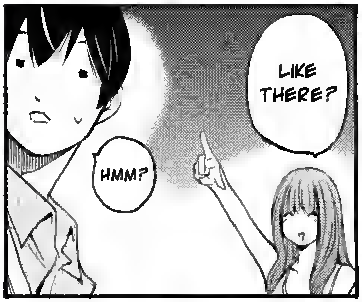
WE ARE NOT FIT TO LEAD AN ARMY ON THE MARCH UNLESS WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE FACE OF THE COUNTRY, ITS MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS, ITS PITFALLS AND PRECIPICES, ITS MARSHES AND SWAMPS.

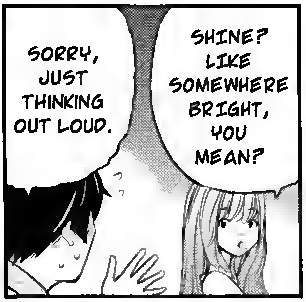
YOU CAN'T LEAD YOUR ARMY THROUGH UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY LIKE MOUNTAIN FORESTS AND SWAMPS.
NO ONE SAID THERE WAS A RIVER HERE!
BOULDER!
?

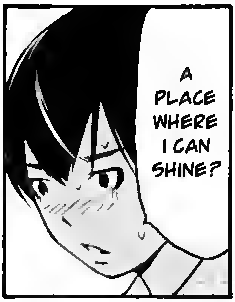
SO SAYETH SUN TZU. YOU CAN THINK OF THAT ONE AS MY OWN ADVICE, IF YOU LIKE.
HERE'S WHAT HE MEANS.

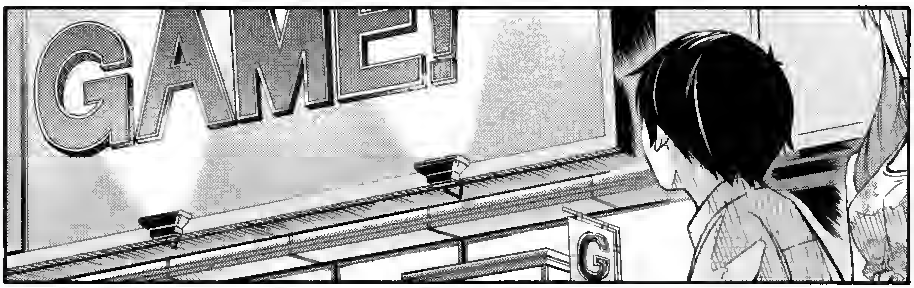
THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE YOU WANT TO GO!
HOT SPOTS, CLUBS, TRENDY BARS... ALL OF THEM ARE AWAY LOCATIONS.
YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO USE THE FULL EXTENT OF YOUR CHARM IN A PLACE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO, NO MATTER HOW MANY STARS IT'S GOT ONLINE.

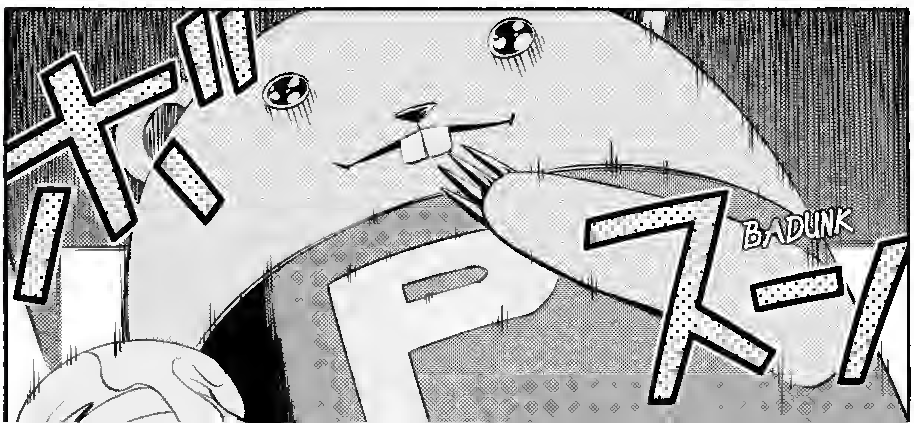
THAT'S MY "HOME FIELD" THEORY!
THE PLACE WHERE YOU SHINE BRIGHTEST!

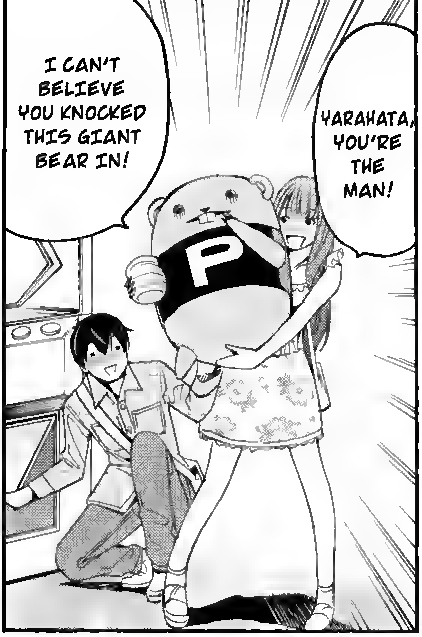

HMM?
LIKE THERE?


SHINE? LIKE SOMEWHERE BRIGHT, YOU MEAN?
SORRY, JUST THINKING OUT LOUD.

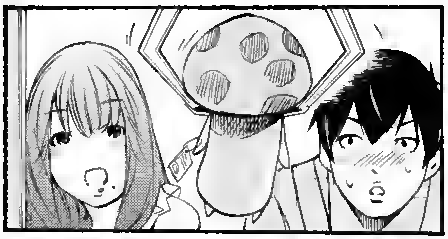

A PLACE WHERE I CAN SHINE?

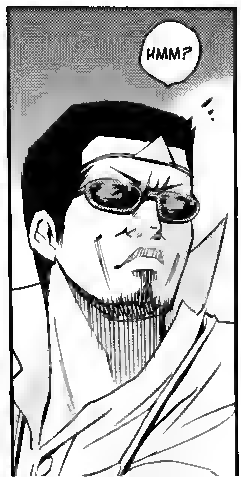

GAME!


BADUNK

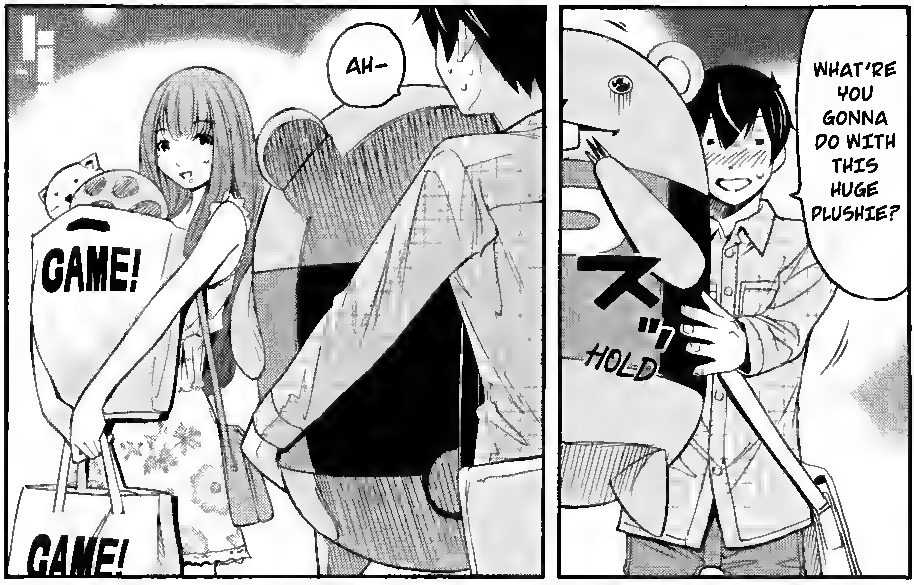


KITTY-CHAN UTENSIL SET

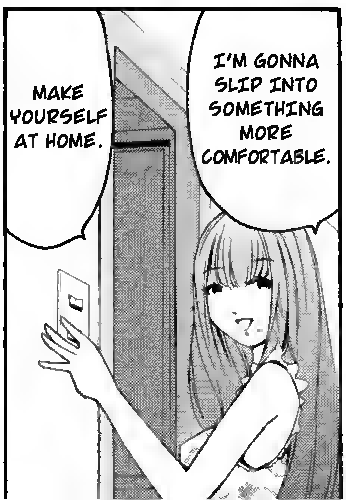




OH,
IT'S GETTING LATE.
WOO, THAT WAS FUN.
YOU'RE QUITE THE GAME MASTER, HUH?
NAH, I MEAN I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, BUT-
GAME
MM HMM.
GUESS IT'S TIME TO CALL IT A NIGHT...


AH-
GAME!
GAME!
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH THIS HUGE PLUSHIE?
HOLD

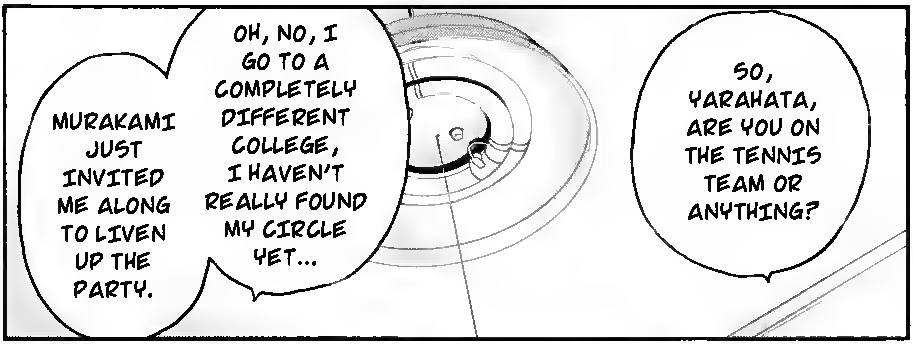
TH-THANKS FOR INVITING ME IN...
SORRY YOU HAD TO CARRY HIM ALL THIS WAY.
P
GAME!


MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
I'M GONNA SLIP INTO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE.

ALL DONE.
UAEF 20
Asahi
BEER'S OKAY, I HOPE?
THE LAST TRAINS ARE LEAVING NOW!
!!
I'M SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE...
THAT MEANS...
AIYA, C'MERE!
PSST, AIYA!
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
I'M NOT PREPARED FOR THIS!
JUST A ROOM LIKE ANY OTHER.
OH, YEAH?
I'VE JUST NEVER BEEN TO A GIRL'S PLACE BEFORE...
C'MON, YARAHATA, RELAX!
B-B-B-BEER'S FINE.
YOU LIKE STAND-UP COMEDY?
WANNA WATCH A DVD?
OH, SURE.

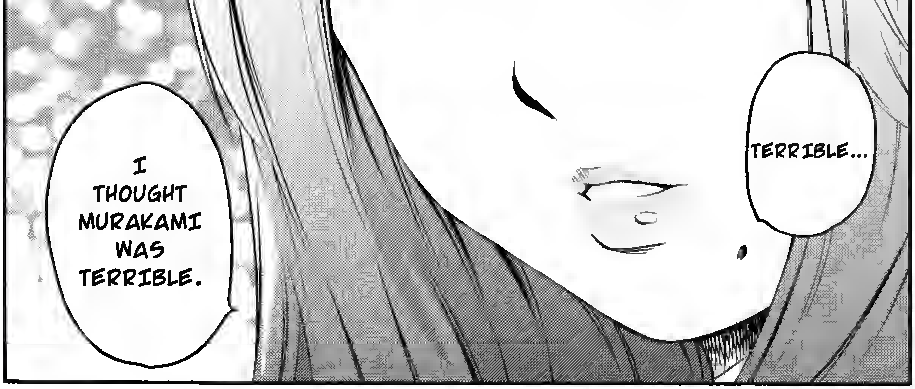
UMM...
BOING
SPIT
!!!
COTTON... OH, SWEET COTTON!
HNNNNNGH! I CAN SEE HER PANTY LINES!
GLUG GLUG
GRAB
EASY, EASY, SETTLE DOWN!

OH, MAN, I GOT TOO NERVOUS AND DRANK TOO MUCH...
I FEEL SICK.
YEAH, GOOD STUFF.
HAHAHA
MAME TALK IS HILARIOUS!
ACTORS FAILING AT SPORTS ALWAYS GETS ME
AHAHAHA
OOOH, THAT WAS FUNNY.

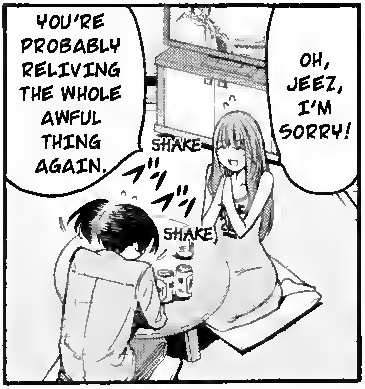

MURAKAMI JUST INVITED ME ALONG TO LIVEN UP THE PARTY.
OH, NO, I GO TO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT COLLEGE, I HAVEN'T REALLY FOUND MY CIRCLE YET...
SO, YARAHATA, ARE YOU ON THE TENNIS TEAM OR ANYTHING?

MURAKAMI? MURAKAMI YUUKI?

AND THE "YARIHUMPER" NICKNAME AROUND SCHOOL.
I MEAN, HE WAS MAKING FUN OF YOU AT THE MIMI STOP, AND HE SPREAD THAT AWFUL RUMOR
I'M SHOCKED, I FIGURED YOU COULDN'T STAND HIM.
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE HIM... MY FRIEND INVITED ME, I HAD NO IDEA HE'D BE THERE.
HUH?


I THOUGHT MURAKAMI WAS TERRIBLE.
TERRIBLE...

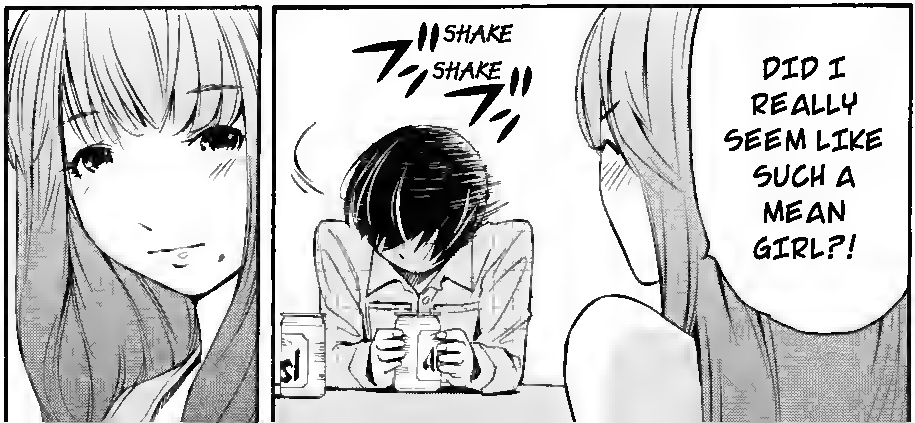
.....


YOU'RE PROBABLY RELIVING THE WHOLE AWFUL THING AGAIN.
OH, JEEZ, I'M SORRY!
SHAKE
SHAKE

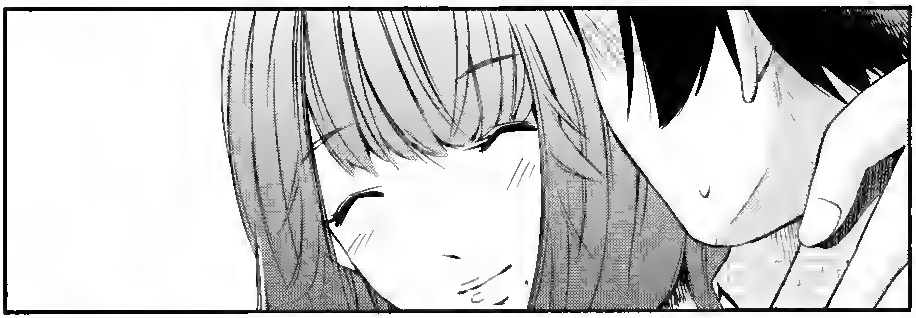
?
I'M SO HAPPY...
IT WASN'T ME...

BUT I FEEL BETTER NOW!
I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU'RE DOING JUST FINE!

THE WORST PART OF THAT WHOLE INCIDENT
WAS THAT I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT ME!
"KARAKUCHI"
ASAHI BREWERIES
SUPER
"DRY"


SHAKE
SHAKE
DID I REALLY SEEM LIKE SUCH A MEAN GIRL?!

YARAHATA, ARE YOU GONNA CRY?
PAT
WIPE AWAY THOSE TEARS!

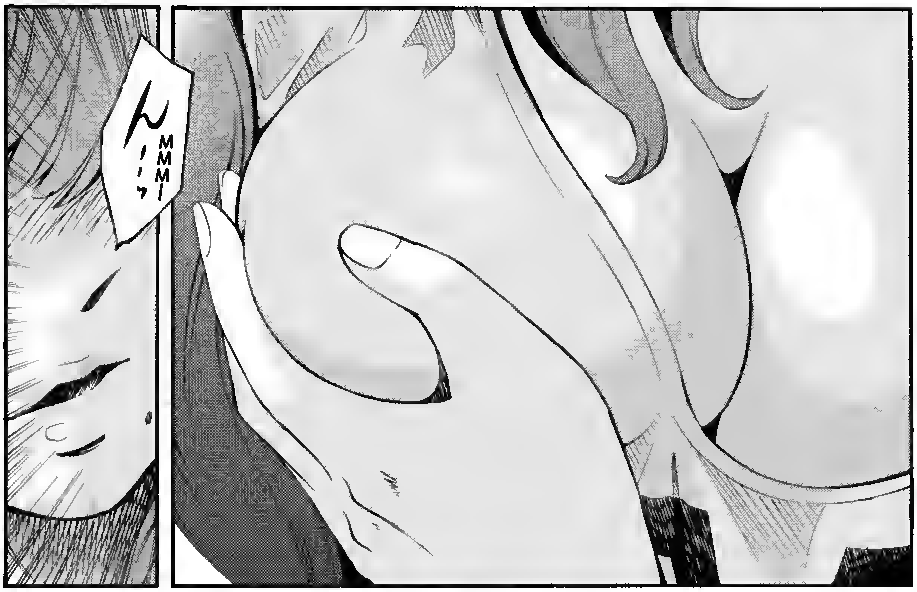


WHOOA!
あわわわ
AWAWAWA
NA-NA-NAKAYAMA-SAN!
UA 20
ん？！
MMN!
FLINCH

UH-

AH!

S-
SORRY!
NAKAYAMA!


MMM!

MMM!

DEAR GRAND-FATHER
MMN
?
UP IN HEAVEN.
LECTURE 11
THE "OUT AT SECOND" THEORY (PART A)
TODAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE,
I GRABBED A REAL BOOB.

NAKAYAMA-SAN'S BOOB...
!
N-
IT'S PRETTY HEFTY!
NNI
!!
OOOOH!
IT'S SQUISHY AND VELVETEEN TO THE TOUCH.
!!!
SSI
AND YET,
WHAT'S THIS...
?!
PINCH
OOH,

んあっ！
MMMH!

GRAB
キュ!!

クル
SLIP
ラ
UWAA!

?

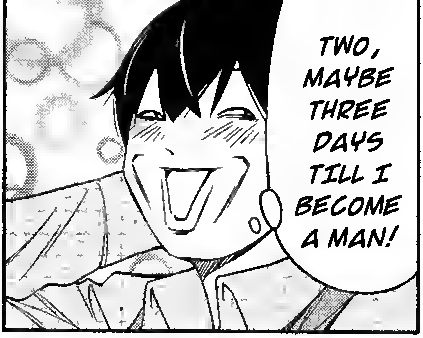
EEE!
FLOP

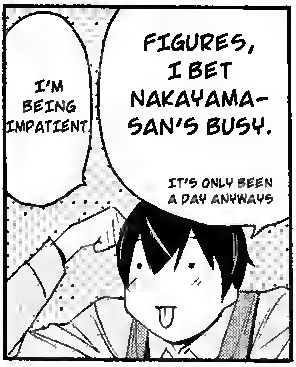
47.
LEAN

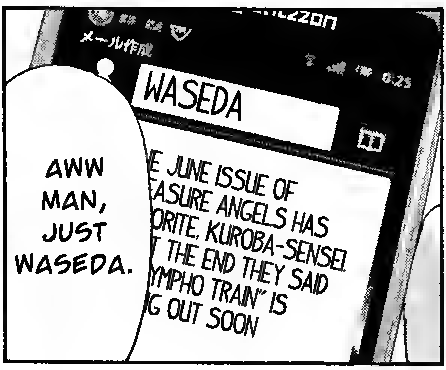
HUH?
LET'S STOP HERE FOR TONIGHT.
OKAY?

OKAY!

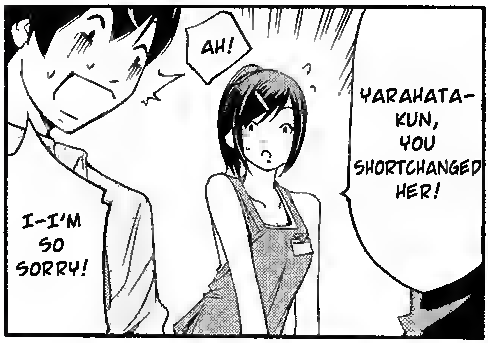
WHEW.
24
ART
ドン
BADONK
I'LL CALL YOU SOON!
OKAY!

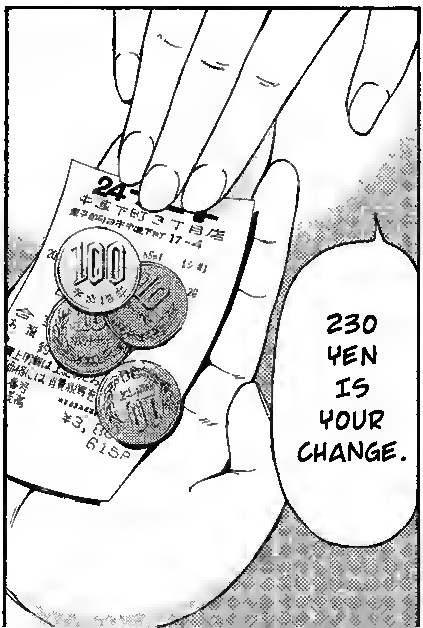




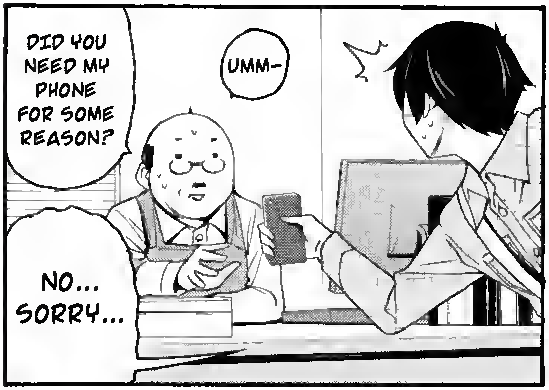


THREE DAYS LATER





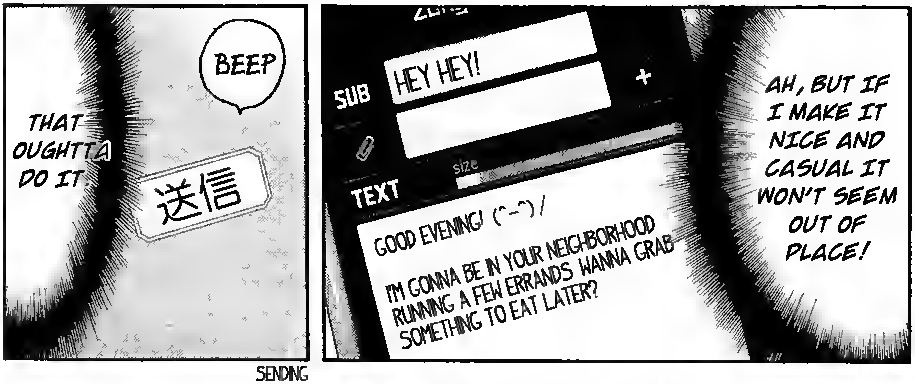
HRMMMMM...
WE HAVEN'T TALKED IN THREE DAYS.


DID YOU NEED MY PHONE FOR SOME REASON?
UMM-
NO... SORRY...

BZZZ
BZZZ
SNAP

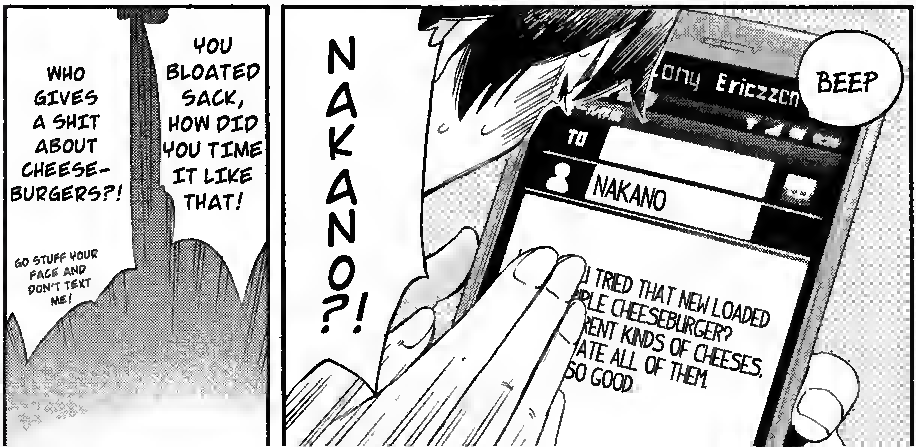
MAYBE I SHOULD TEXT HER.

MAN...
NOW I'M FOCUSING ON EVERY CELL PHONE WITHIN REACH.

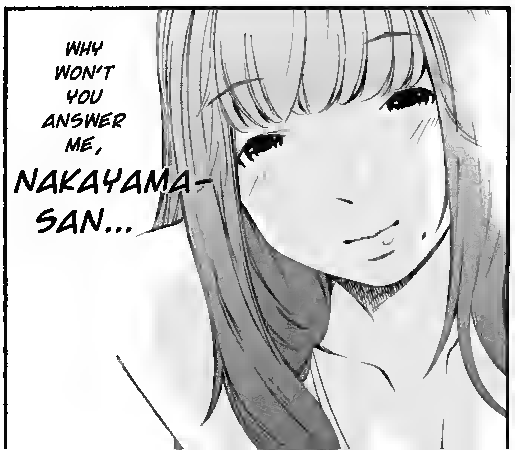

THAT OUGHTTA DO IT.
BEEP
送信
SUB
HEY HEY!
TEXT
size
GOOD EVENING! (^-^)/
I'M GONNA BE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD RUNNING A FEW ERRANDS. WANNA GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT LATER?
AH, BUT IF I MAKE IT NICE AND CASUAL IT WON'T SEEM OUT OF PLACE!

SENDING

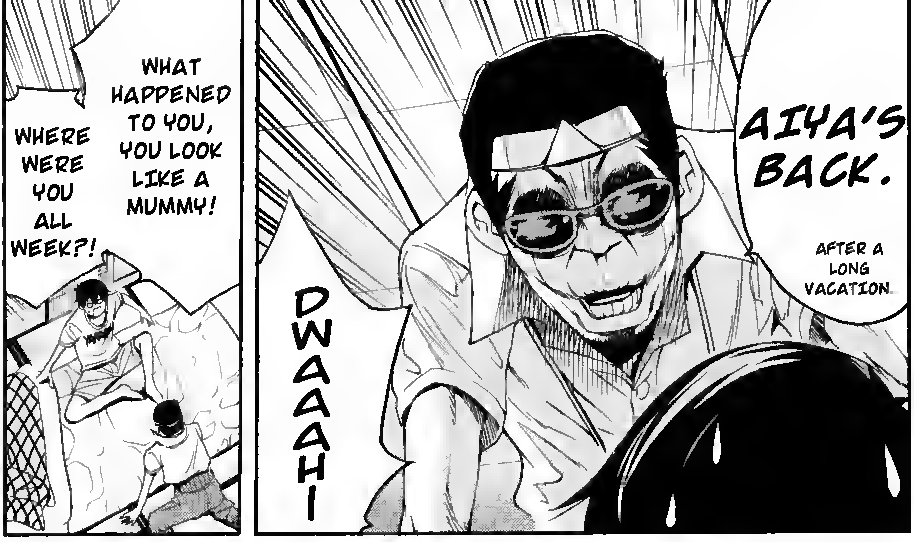
NEW MESSAGE

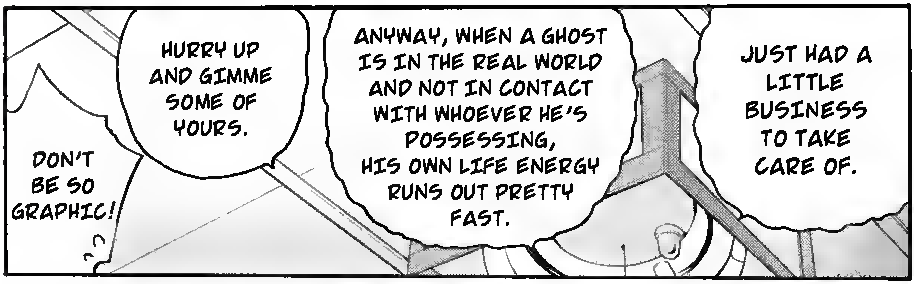


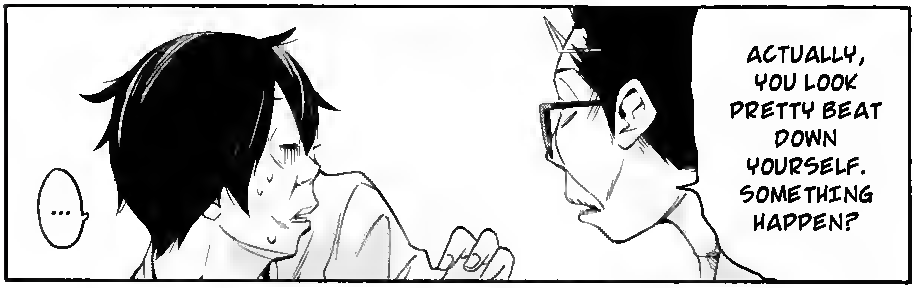
ONE
WEEK
LATER


WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER ME, NAKAYAMA-SAN...

送信BOX (1/
WHY...
OUTBOX
中山夏希
2012/10/22 16:38
中山夏希
2012/10/22 10:16
WHY...
2012/10/22 10:13
2012/10/22 10:11
NAKAYAMA NATSUKI
NAKAYAMA NATSUKI
NAKAYAMA NATSUKI
NAKAYAMA NATSUKI
NAKAYAMA NATSUKI

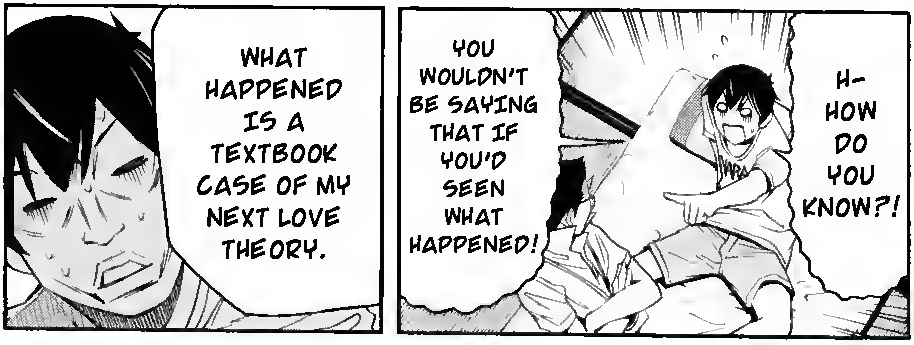

WHERE WERE YOU ALL WEEK?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, YOU LOOK LIKE A MUMMY!
DWAAAHI
AIYA'S BACK.
AFTER A LONG VACATION.

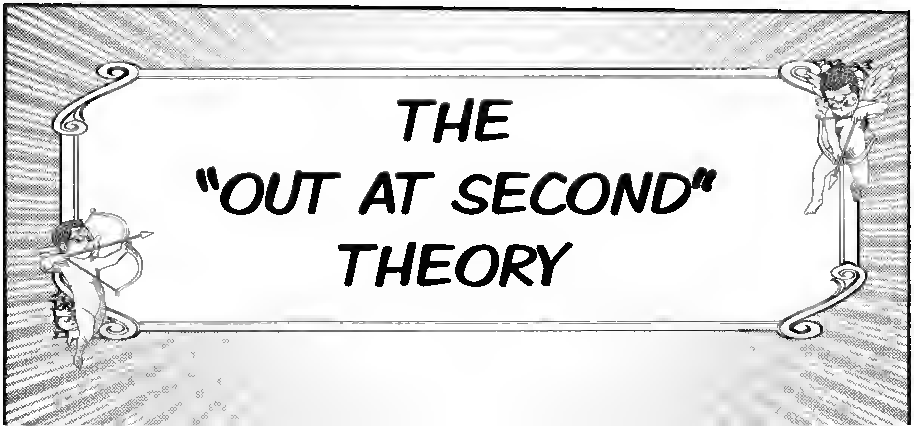

DON'T BE SO GRAPHIC!
HURRY UP AND GIMME SOME OF YOURS.
ANYWAY, WHEN A GHOST IS IN THE REAL WORLD AND NOT IN CONTACT WITH WHOEVER HE'S POSSESSING, HIS OWN LIFE ENERGY RUNS OUT PRETTY FAST.
JUST HAD A LITTLE BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF.


...
ACTUALLY, YOU LOOK PRETTY BEAT DOWN YOURSELF. SOMETHING HAPPEN?

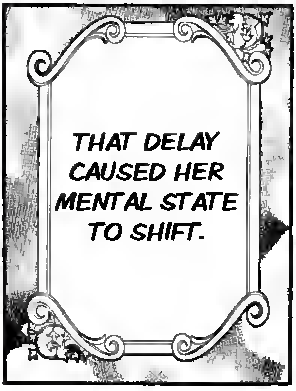
HUH?
WHY'EE YOU APOLOGIZING?
I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY. IT'S MY FAULT FOR ABANDONING YOU.
FORGIVETH ME!
PAT
AH, I SEE.

WHAT?!
YOU ARE ALREADY DUMPED.


WHAT HAPPENED IS A TEXTBOOK CASE OF MY NEXT LOVE THEORY.
YOU WOULDN'T BE SAYING THAT IF YOU'D SEEN WHAT HAPPENED!
H-HOW DO YOU KNOW?!

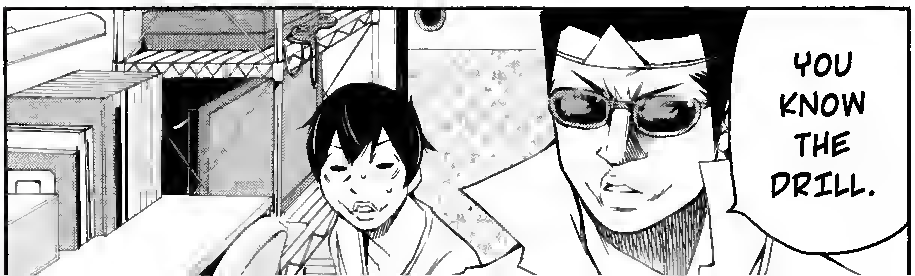

THE "OUT AT SECOND" THEORY

WELL, IN YOUR CASE YOU GOT SOME BOOB, BUT SECOND BASE ISN'T THAT WELL DEFINED.
IT HAPPENS AFTER A LONG FRENCH KISS.

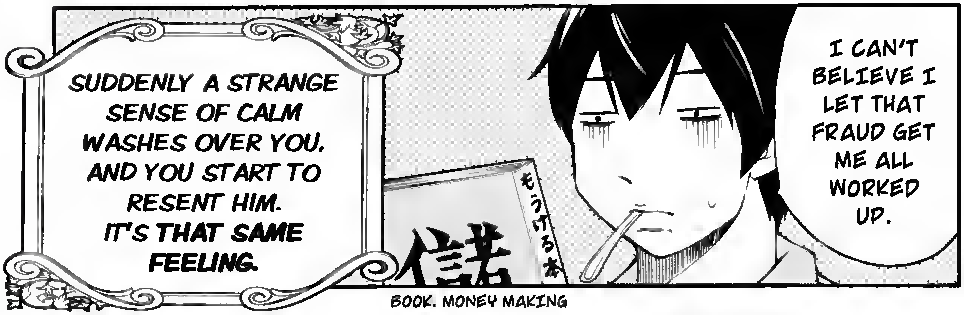

THAT DELAY CAUSED HER MENTAL STATE TO SHIFT.

BUT SECOND BASE IS A FINE LINE TO WALK. AND YOU WAITED A BIT TOO LONG TO TAKE THINGS FURTHER.
THAT NIGHT YOU HAD A SHOT AT HAVING SEX WITH NAKAYAMA-SAN.

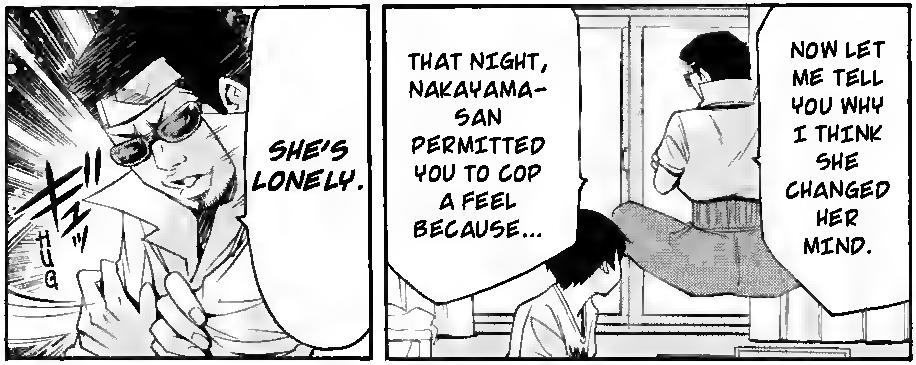
HER HEAD CLEARED UP.


YOU KNOW THE DRILL.

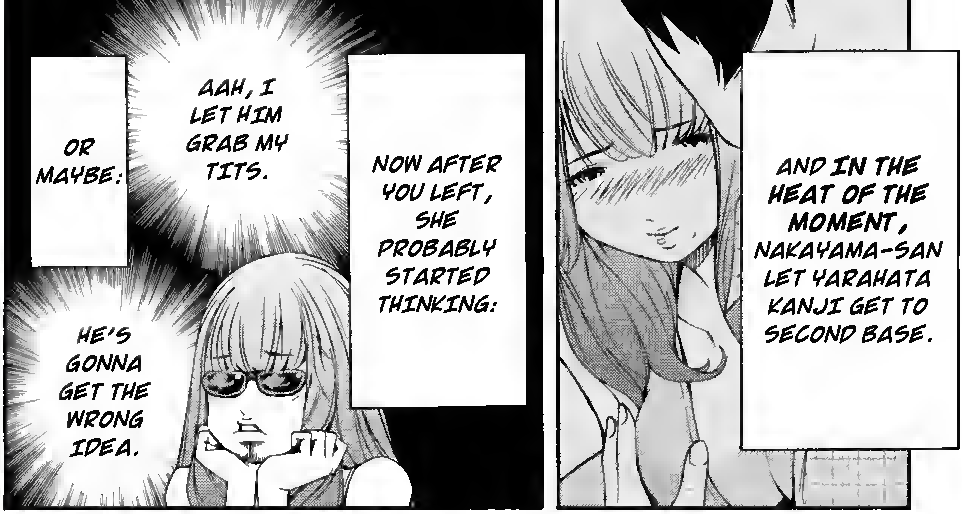
THEN YOU GET HOME. MAYBE ENJOY A PUDDING SNACK OR SOMETHING.
I WANT THAT BOOK!
WOW, MAYBE I REALLY CAN MAKE A LOT OF MONEY!
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!
MAYBE AT A BUSINESS SEMINAR OR A BOOK SIGNING.

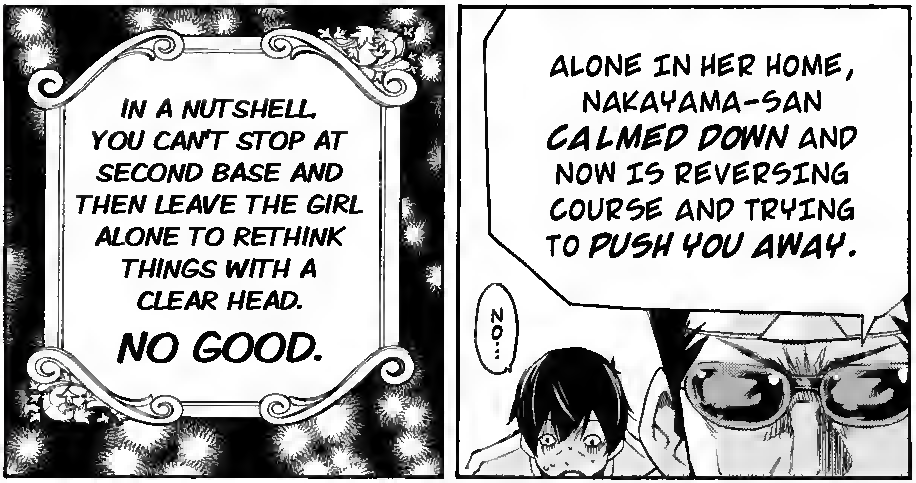

SUDDENLY A STRANGE SENSE OF CALM WASHES OVER YOU. AND YOU START TO RESENT HIM. IT'S THAT SAME FEELING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET THAT FRAUD GET ME ALL WORKED UP.

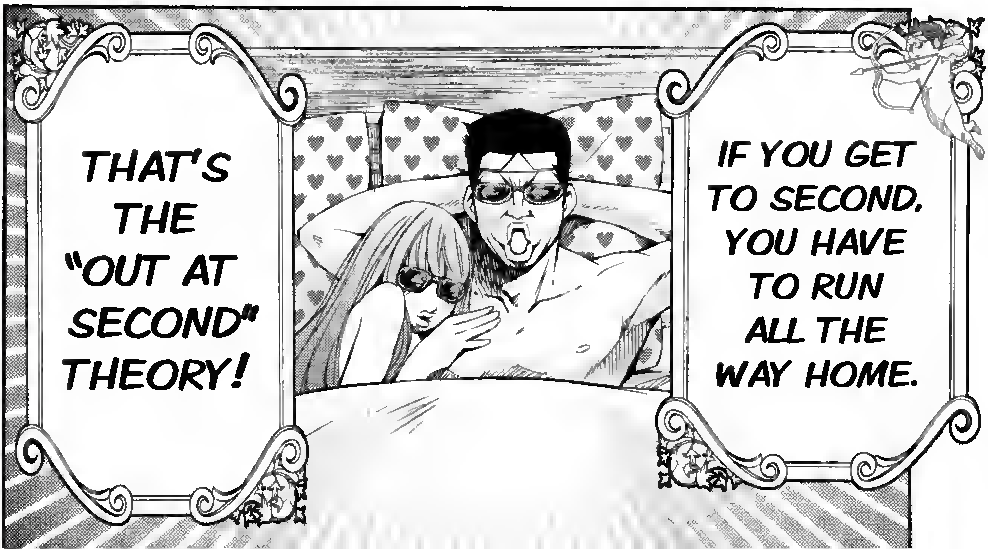
BOOK. MONEY MAKING


SHE'S LONELY.
THAT NIGHT, NAKAYAMA-SAN PERMITTED YOU TO COP A FEEL BECAUSE...
NOW LET ME TELL YOU WHY I THINK SHE CHANGED HER MIND.

BUT EVEN IF NOT, WHEN SHE REALIZED YOU HAD A CRUSH ON HER BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, HER FEELINGS WAVERED A BIT.
I EXPECT NAKAYAMA-SAN'S GOT SOME KIND OF EMPTINESS IN HER HEART RIGHT NOW.


AND IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT, NAKAYAMA-SAN LET YARAHATA KANJI GET TO SECOND BASE.
NOW AFTER YOU LEFT, SHE PROBABLY STARTED THINKING:
AAH, I LET HIM GRAB MY TITS.
OR MAYBE:
HE'S GONNA GET THE WRONG IDEA.


IN A NUTSHELL, YOU CAN'T STOP AT SECOND BASE AND THEN LEAVE THE GIRL ALONE TO RETHINK THINGS WITH A CLEAR HEAD.
NO GOOD.
ALONE IN HER HOME, NAKAYAMA-SAN CALMED DOWN AND NOW IS REVERSING COURSE AND TRYING TO PUSH YOU AWAY.
NO...


THAT'S THE "OUT AT SECOND" THEORY!
IF YOU GET TO SECOND, YOU HAVE TO RUN ALL THE WAY HOME.

COO COO
クルッー
NO, I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT!
NAKAYAMA-SAN WOULDN'T-
YAHAHA
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!
SLIDE
IT'S A CARRIER PIGEON!
AH!
OF COURSE, YOU DON'T NEED A PHONE TO CONTACT SOMEONE!
YARAHATA
Zony Ericzzu
16:59
中山夏希
NAKAYAMA NATSUKI
着信中
CALLING
HELLO?
YARA
NAKAYAMA-SAN!
DOO DOO DO DOO OOO

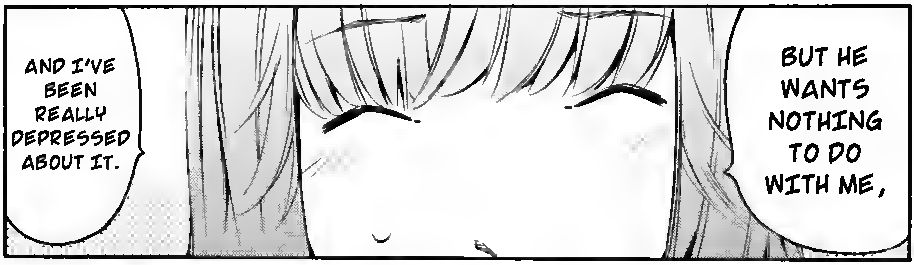
YARAHATA?
ARE YOU FREE THIS SUNDAY?
I TOLD YOU SHE WASN'T LIKE THAT!
EAT IT, AIYA!

LECTURE 12

THE "OUT AT SECOND" THEORY (PART B)

NOT THAT...
I'VE ONLY BEEN WAITING FIVE MINUTES OR SO.
OH, IT'S FINE, I JUST GOT HERE MYSELF.
HUH?
TINK
I'LL BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOU.
THE FACT IS...

I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
BEEP!

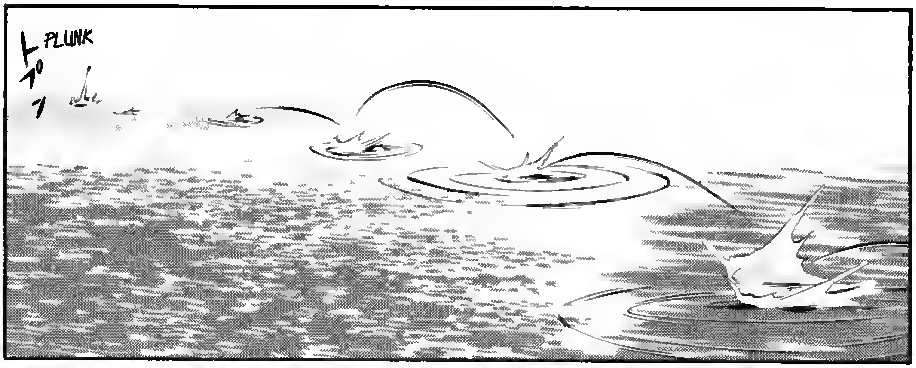

BUT HE WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME,
AND I'VE BEEN REALLY DEPRESSED ABOUT IT.

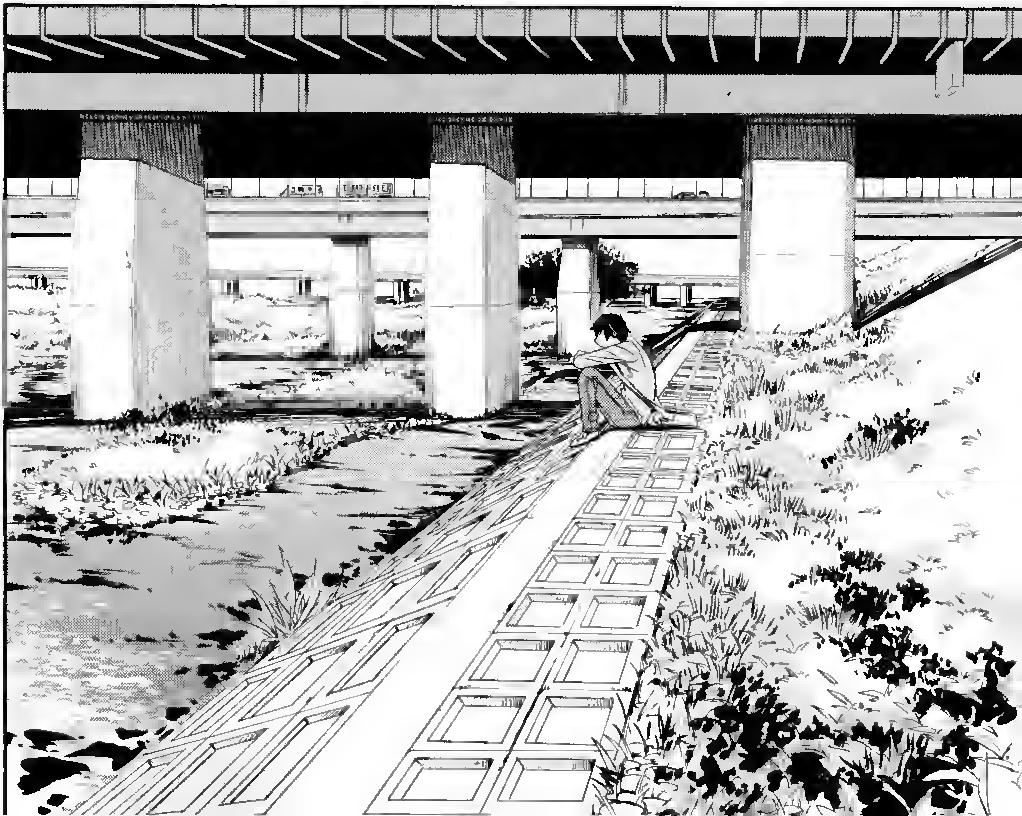
GEE, ISN'T THAT EXACTLY WHAT AIYA SAID?
SO MY FRIEND INVITED ME TO THAT PARTY,
I RAN INTO YOU...
AND YOU'RE SUCH A SWEETHEART, I GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT...

I'M SO SORRY!
YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT A TERRIBLE PERSON, I'M THE WORST.
YOU...
YOU WERE LONELY, HUH?
I KNOW THE FEELING, TRUST ME!
I CAN'T GET A GIRL TO SAVE MY LIFE.
HAHAHA
I WAS FEELING LONELY, TOO, I GUESS I JUST GOT WORKED UP, AS WELL!

SIGN: JOJOTHAN'S COFFEE & RESTAURANT

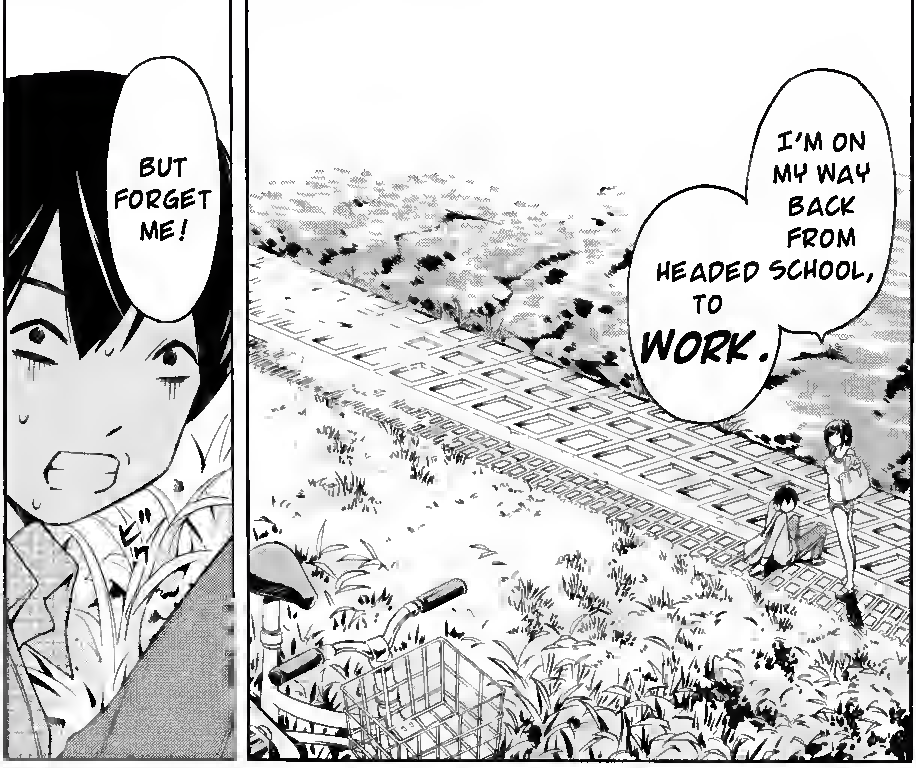
FWOOP
ヒュ


PLUNK
トプン



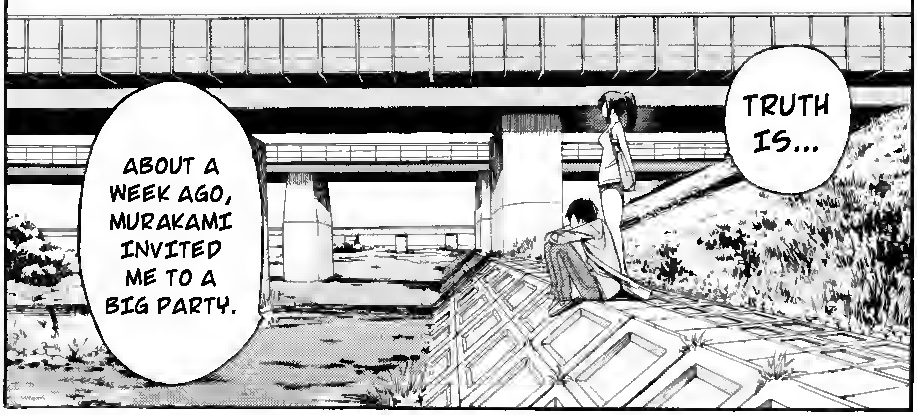
HAAGH...
ALMOST TIME FOR WORK...
MAYBE I'LL JUST CALL OUT.
PLOP
!!!

CALL OUT, HUH?
SAKI-SAN?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!

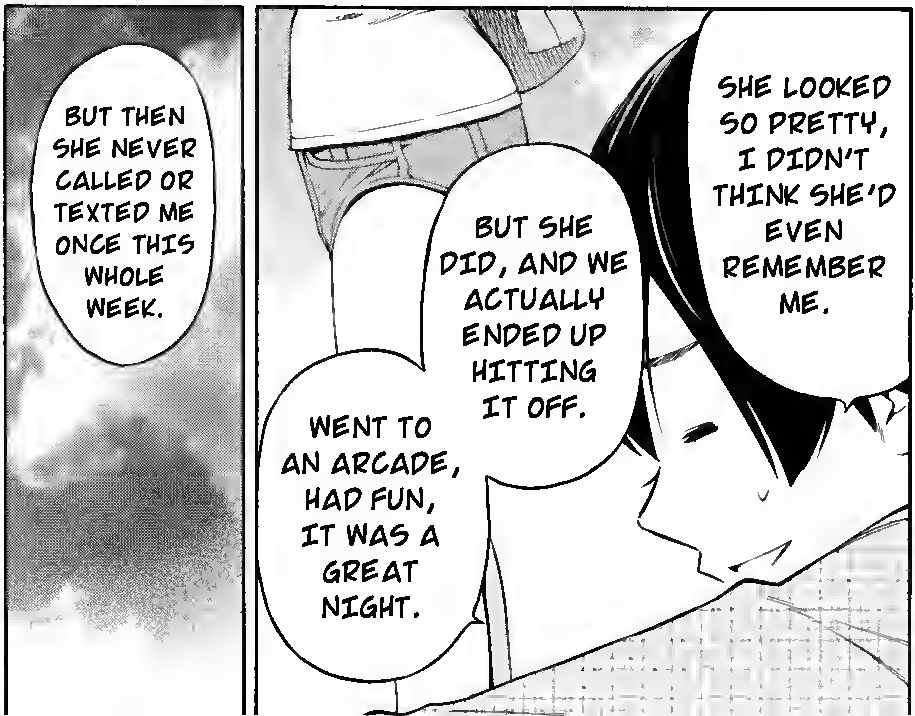

I'M ON MY WAY BACK FROM HEADED SCHOOL, TO WORK.
BUT FORGET ME!

YARAHATA-KUN, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD.
WHAT'S WRONG?

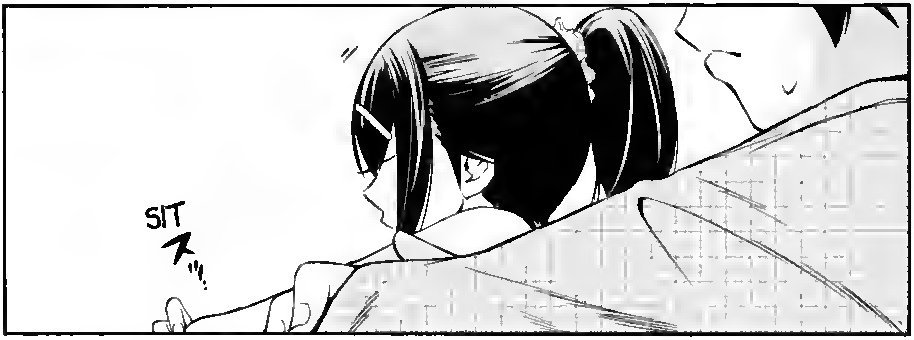
N-NOTHING MAJOR, REALLY.
WHAT'S... WRONG?


ABOUT A WEEK AGO, MURAKAMI INVITED ME TO A BIG PARTY.
TRUTH IS...

I MET A GIRL FROM HIGH SCHOOL
WHO I HAD A HUGE CRUSH ON.


BUT THEN SHE NEVER CALLED OR TEXTED ME ONCE THIS WHOLE WEEK.
WENT TO AN ARCADE, HAD FUN, IT WAS A GREAT NIGHT.
BUT SHE DID, AND WE ACTUALLY ENDED UP HITTING IT OFF.
SHE LOOKED SO PRETTY, I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D EVEN REMEMBER ME.

FINALLY SHE CALLS ME YESTERDAY
AND TELLS ME SHE'S NOT INTERESTED.

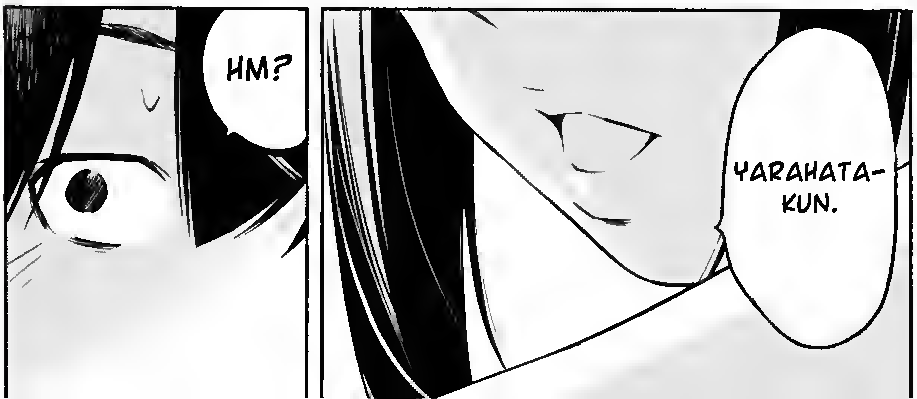

SIT

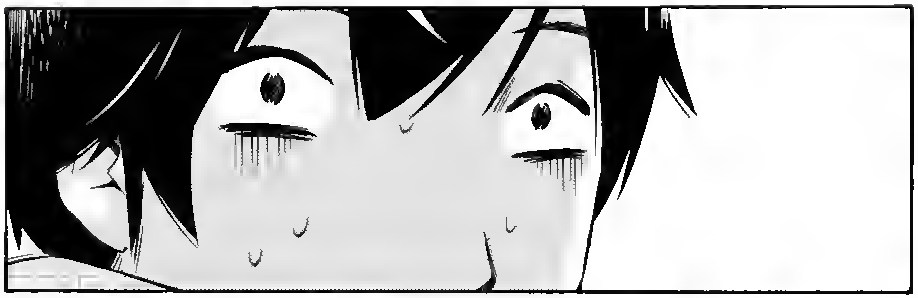
I JUST NEVER LEARN MY LESSON, I GUESS.
EVERY SINGLE TIME-
I MEAN WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN OFF THE GROUND!
I GUESS YOU CAN'T CALL IT GETTING DUMPED IF YOU WERE NEVER DATING, RIGHT?

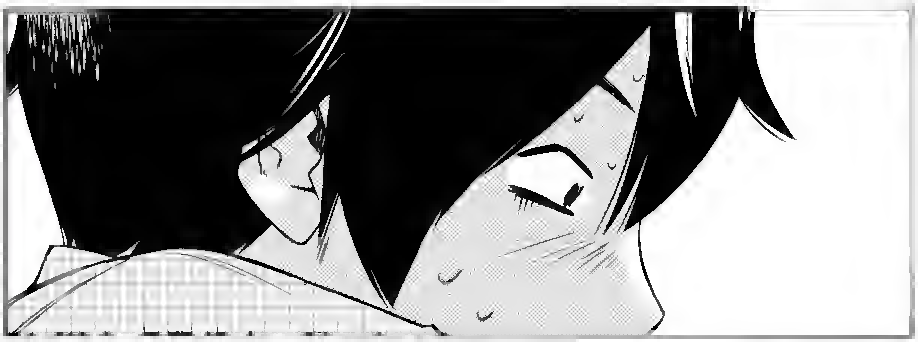
BUT...
THINKING ABOUT IT RATIONALLY, THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D EVER DATE ME.
THAT LITTLE BIT OF KINDNESS WAS SUCH A RELIEF, I GOT ALL EXCITED AND STARTED CALLING AND TEXTING CONSTANTLY.
WHEN I LEARNED SHE WASN'T CALLING ME "GROSS"...
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH ME?!
JUST BEING ANNOYING AND CLINGY.

.....
AH-

SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?!
SAKI-SAN DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THIS!
SHE'LL PROBABLY NEVER TALK TO ME AGAIN-

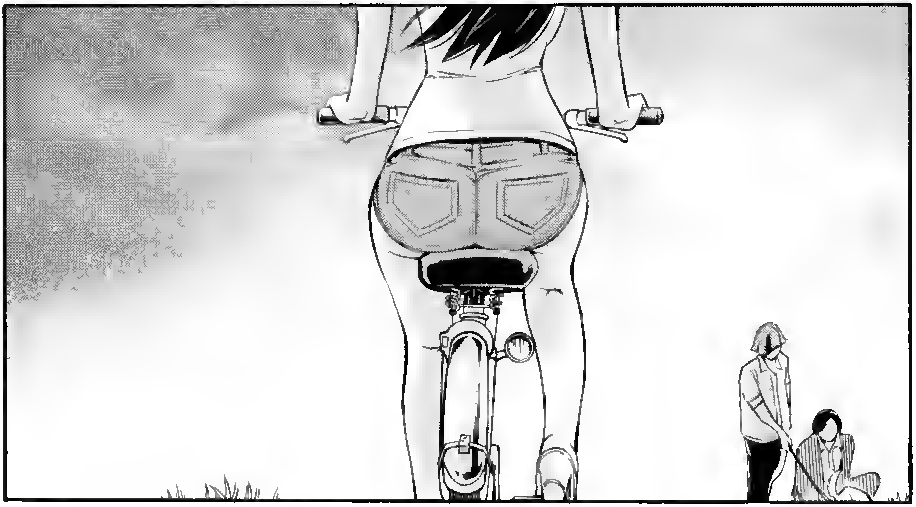

HM?
YARAHATA-KUN.





YOU'RE A SHORT-CHANGER!

UH-



THE "OUT AT SECOND" THEORY

DON'T LET HER GO HOME AFTER REACHING SECOND BASE. IF YOU FRENCH KISS OR GET GRABBY, MAKE SURE IT ENDS WITH SEX.

LECTURE 13
KANJUROU IS ON THE SCENE
YARAHATA-KUUUUUN!

GASP
THAT DREAM AGAIN!

FLOP

IT'S
COME
TRUE!

DON'T YOU THINK YOU HAVE ENOUGH PORN?
UMM... WHO ARE YOU LADIES?
YAMATA
YOUR HAIR'S SO LAME!
HE TALKS FUNNY, TOO.
BLAH BLAH
THIS KID'S GOT ZERO AURA.
TEE HEE

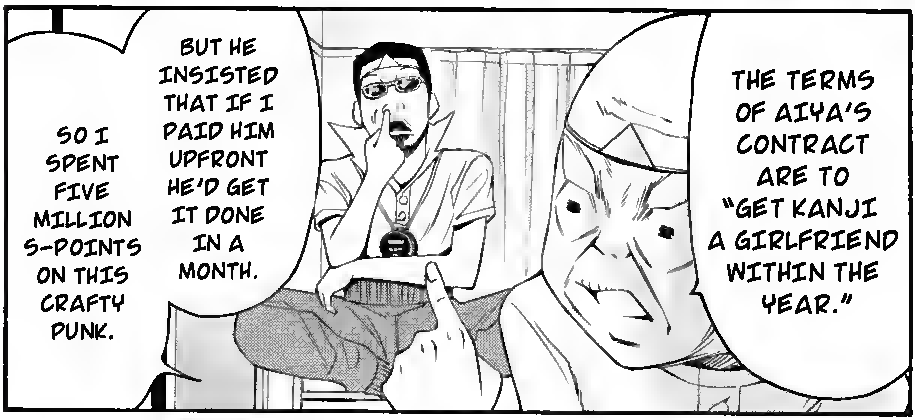
POPPY!
AHN!
HEY, GRANDSON!

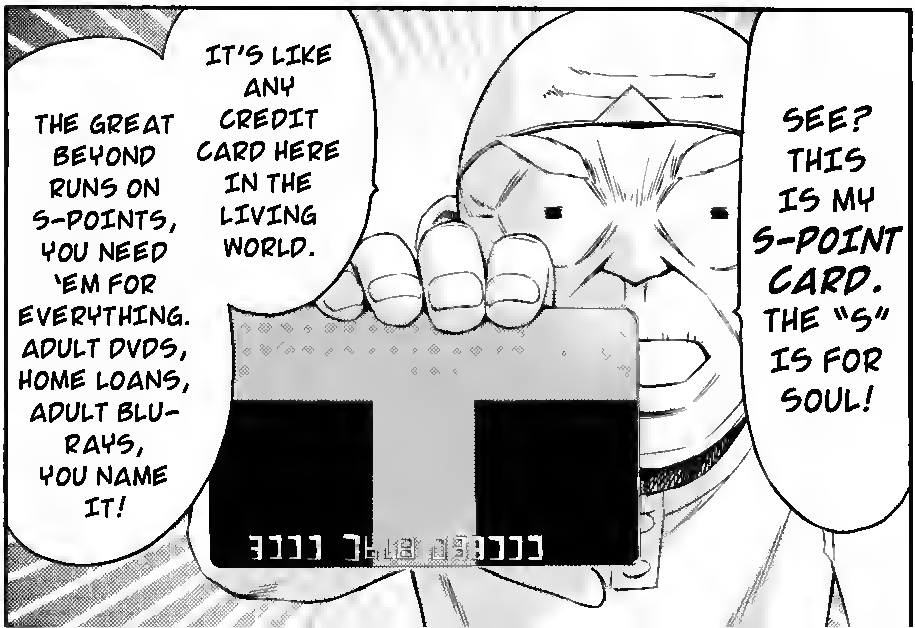
WHADDA YA MEAN "NEGATING" THE CONTRACT?!

I RECALL SOMEONE WOULDN'T SHUT UP ABOUT HOW "THE GREAT AIYA ONLY NEEDS A MONTH!"
CONTRACT.. ?
YARAHATA
THAT'S BREACH OF CONTRACT, I HAD A YEAR!

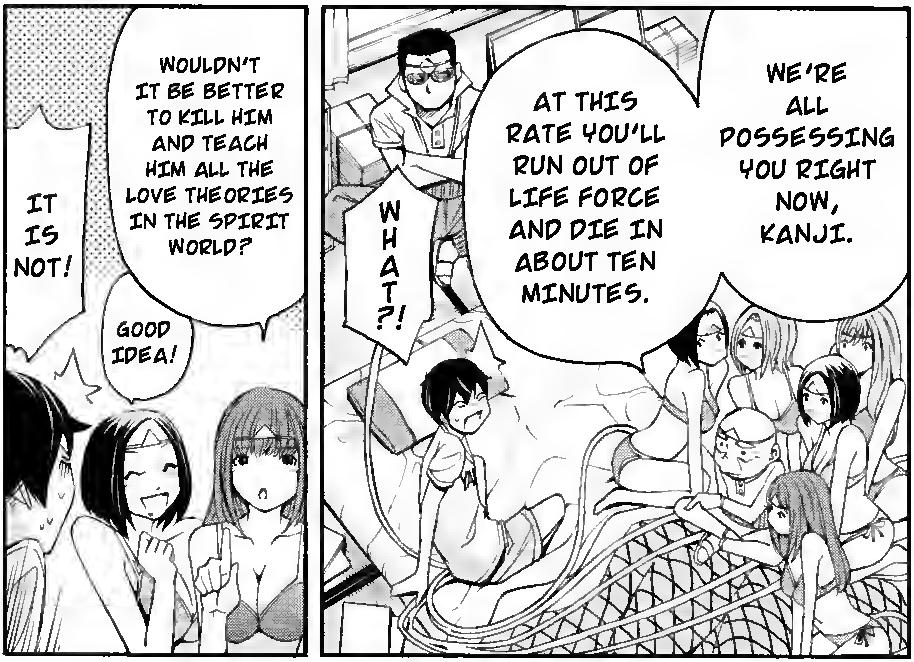
AND YOU WERE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!
YOU BROUGHT THIS UPON YOURSELF! KANJI HAD THE PERFECT CHANCE TO GET LUCKY,

OH, YES, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW, WOULD YOU...
CAN SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS "CONTRACT"?
YARAHATA
YOU KNOW,
NRRG!
I GET VERY LITTLE FREE TIME!


SO I SPENT FIVE MILLION S-POINTS ON THIS CRAFTY PUNK.
BUT HE INSISTED THAT IF I PAID HIM UPFRONT HE'D GET IT DONE IN A MONTH.
THE TERMS OF AIYA'S CONTRACT ARE TO "GET KANJI A GIRLFRIEND WITHIN THE YEAR."


THE GREAT BEYOND RUNS ON S-POINTS, YOU NEED 'EM FOR EVERYTHING. ADULT DVDS, HOME LOANS, ADULT BLU-RAYS, YOU NAME IT!
IT'S LIKE ANY CREDIT CARD HERE IN THE LIVING WORLD.
SEE? THIS IS MY S-POINT CARD. THE "S" IS FOR SOUL!

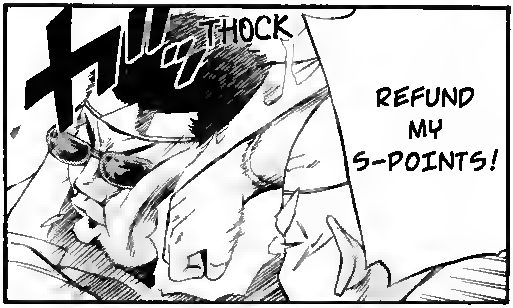
AWWW!
YOU GIRLS CAN RUN ALONG, NOW.
DON'T WASTE YOUR POINTS.
IT COSTS A BOATLOAD OF 5-POINTS FOR A GHOST TO VISIT THE LIVING WORLD.
YH


IT IS NOT!
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO KILL HIM AND TEACH HIM ALL THE LOVE THEORIES IN THE SPIRIT WORLD?
GOOD IDEA!
WHAT?!
AT THIS RATE YOU'LL RUN OUT OF LIFE FORCE AND DIE IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES.
WE'RE ALL POSSESSING YOU RIGHT NOW, KANJI.

ヒュ
FWOOOO
?!
YAR
I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET WASEDA AND NAKANO TO PLAY MONSTER HUNT-
OH, CRAP, I FORGOT!

WHOA, IT'S A STAND BATTLE!
WITH GHOSTS!
ゴゴゴゴ RRRRR
THEN I'LL USE FORCE WHERE WORDS HAVE FAILED.
I REFUSE TO QUIT.
UMBLE

FUNT
THE ONE MONTH THING WAS VERBAL!
OOF!
WHEN THEY HIT EACH OTHER I GET HURT TOO!
ぬおおおおっ
UUUUUF!


THOCK
REFUND MY S-POINTS!

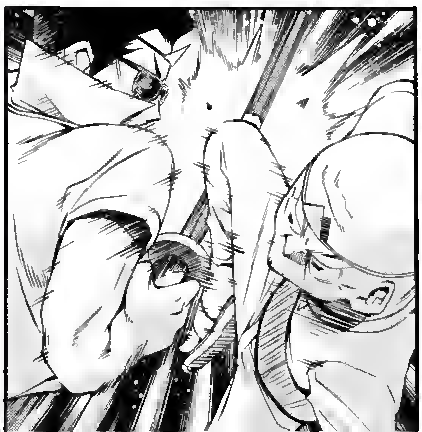
BFFT
?!!

STAY OUT OF THIS!
くぃっ
YANK
DON'T STOP US, KANJI!
STOP IT, YOU IDIOTS! YOU'LL KILL ME BEFORE YOU KILL EACH OTHER!

PUNCH
PUNCH
PUNCH
YOU GO HOME, YOU CORRUPT TEACHER!
GO HOME, YOU MONSTER GRANDPA!
KNOCK IT OFF!

DAMN IT ALL, NOW I'M LATE.
ZOOOM
THEY'RE GONNA BE PISSED...

I'M GONNA CRASH!
OH NO,



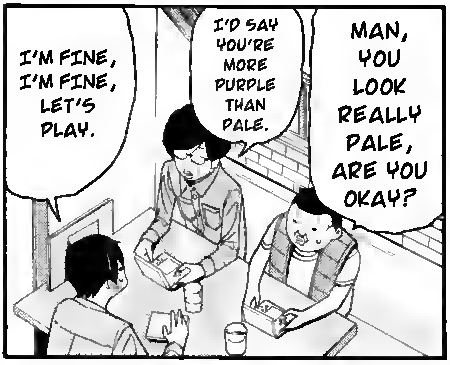
USELESS, USELESS, USELESS!
HWATA TATA TATA!
WHOOOAH!
EEK!

!
IS THAT RIGHT?
YOU CAN'T MATCH MY POWER OR SPEED IN CLOSE COMBAT, OLD MAN.
BRAS?!
BRAA
BUT!
PRETTY GOOD.
YOU TOOK THEIR BRAS IN BETWEEN ATTACKS...

SIGN: JOJOTHAN'S COFFEE & RESTAURANT

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT TOOK SO MUCH ENERGY TO BIKE A FEW BLOCKS...
PANT
PANT
WHEEZE
THOSE STUPID OLD FARTS ARE SUCKING THE LIFE OUT OF ME...

WELCOME!
!
YOUR REGULAR BOOTH IS READY, SIR.
RIGHT THIS WAY.
TH-THANK YOU.


MAN, YOU LOOK REALLY PALE, ARE YOU OKAY?
I'D SAY YOU'RE MORE PURPLE THAN PALE.
I'M FINE, I'M FINE, LET'S PLAY.

YOU'RE LATE.
WE ALREADY GOT FOUR PLATES

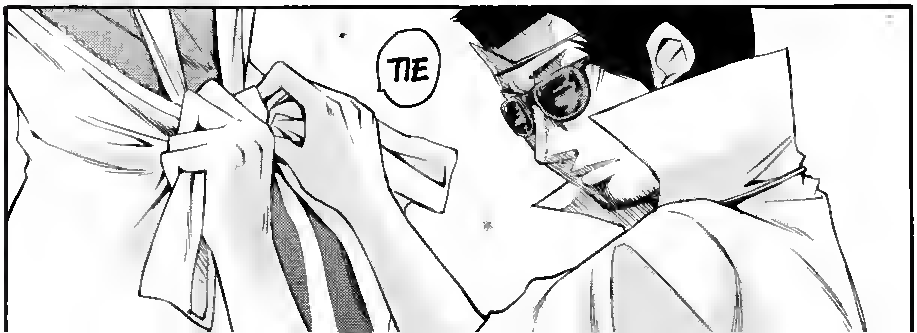
GOOD,
THEY SEEM TO HAVE SETTLED DOWN.

CHISATO, DO YOU SENSE A GHOST AGAIN?
HOLD ON, MIKA.
CHISATO-SENPAI, ARE YOU LISTENING?
SHIVER
SHIVER
YES...
.....
SENPAI, SENPAI! I HEARD THE JUCIEST RUMOR!
あああああ
GHK-
THAT SCRUFFY GUY OVER THERE'S GOT TWO OF THE MOST EVIL SPIRITS WRITHING ABOUT HIM!
SHIVER
A-AGREED
GIRLS WHO GET INTO THAT OCCULT STUFF ARE SO WEIRD.
UGH, IT'S TOO MUCH! IT'S TOO CREEPY! I'M OUT OF HERE!
WAIT, CHISATO!
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY MIGHT DO!
THEIR EGOS ARE CLASHING AND TURNING INTO EVIL WAVES.

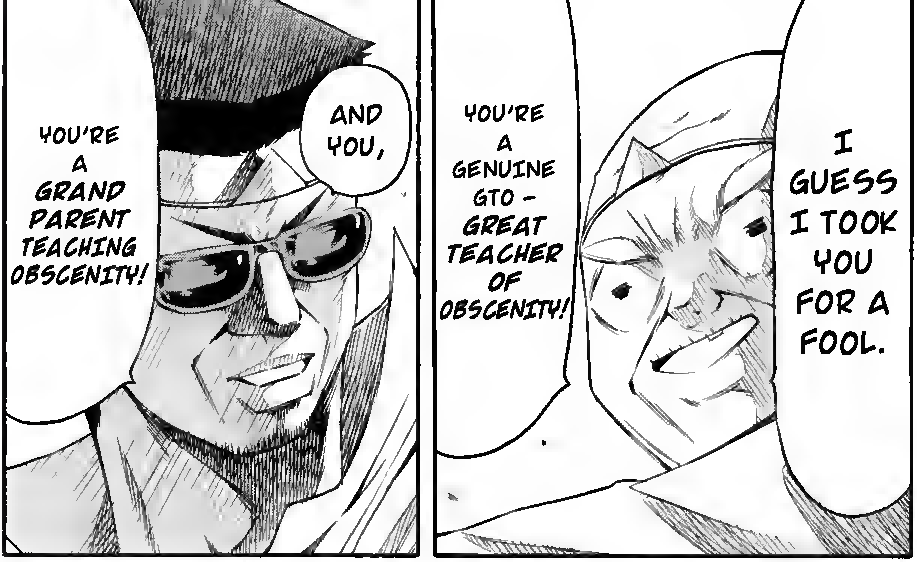
SHALL I REFILL YOUR WATER?
YES, PLEASE!
IT'S BEEN QUIET FOR TOO LONG...
SOMETHING TELLS ME SHE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD!
P-POLTERGEISTS NOW? CRAP!
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
!!!
KHAAA
NO, STOP!
!!

夏目
NATSUME

DASH!!


TIE

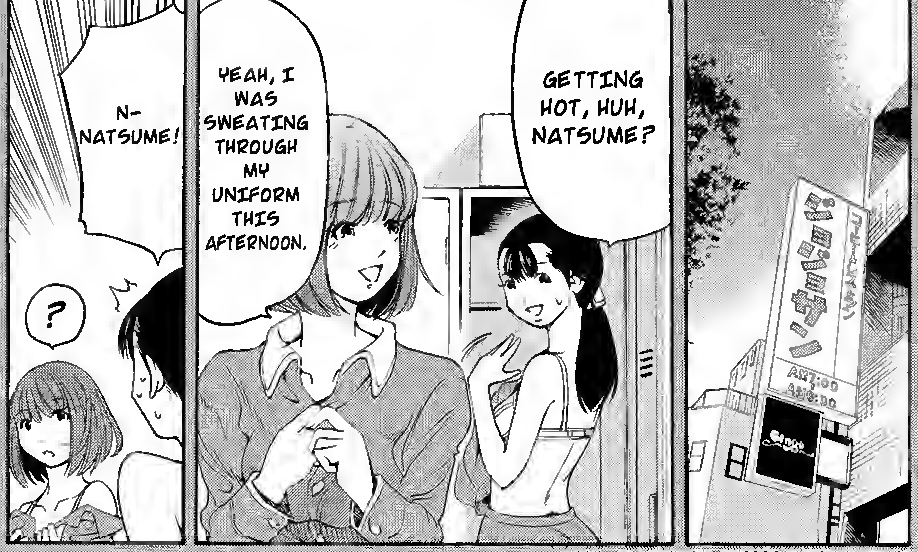
HERE YOU GO.
ONE STRIPPED THE GIRL AS SWIFTLY AS THE WIND. THEY ADMIRED THE SIGHT TOGETHER. AND THE OTHER DRESSED HER AGAIN. ALL IN THE SPAN OF HALF A SECOND!
TA
THEY CALL IT...
DAAAA
GREAT!
THE BOOTY BREEZE!


I GUESS I TOOK YOU FOR A FOOL.
YOU'RE A GENUINE GTO - GREAT TEACHER OF OBSCENITY!
AND YOU,
YOU'RE A GRAND PARENT TEACHING OBSCENITY!

ALL RIGHT, KANJI!
SHOOM
I KNOW YOU NEED A LOT OF HELP GETTING A GIRLFRIEND,
SO I'M GOING TO STAY IN THE LIVING WORLD FOR A WHILE, TOO!
WITH AIYA

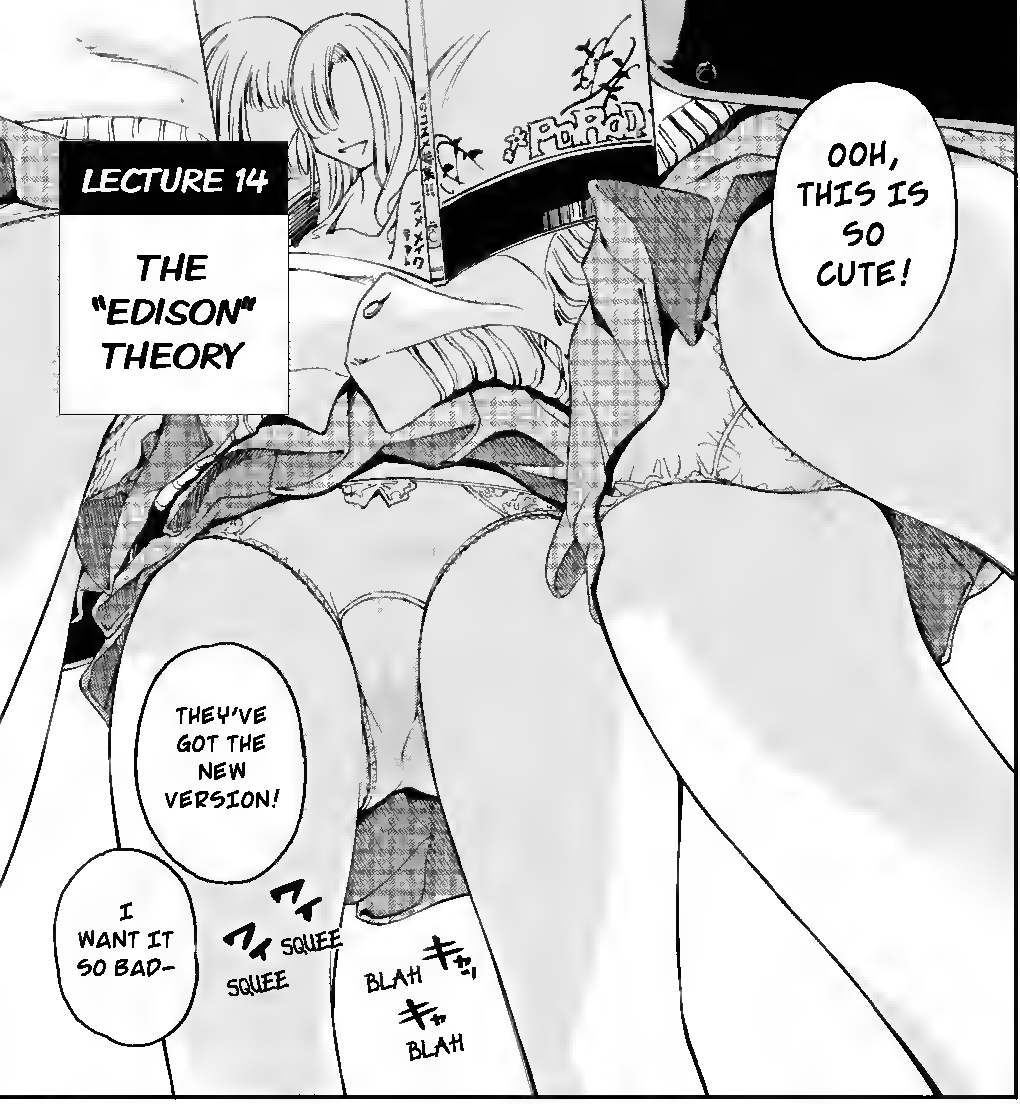
SIGN: JOJOTHAN'S COFFEE & RESTAURANT

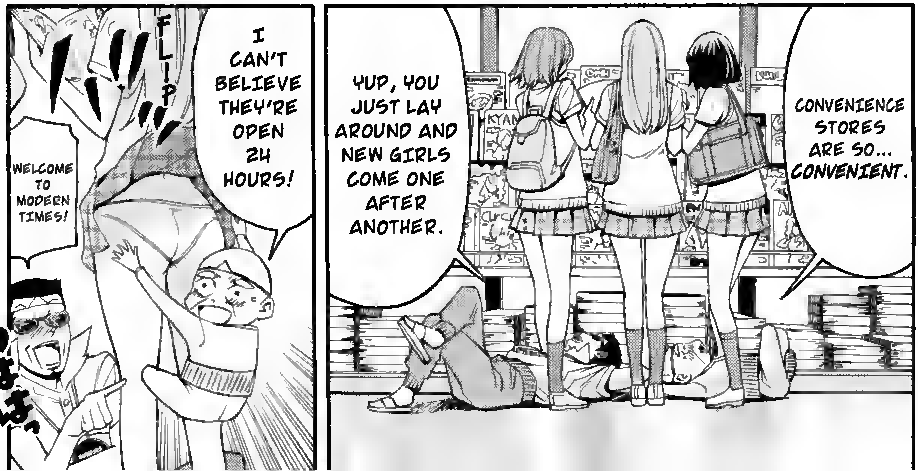
WE USED TOO MUCH LIFE ENERGY.
OOPS-
YAMAHATA-KUN, WHAT'S WRONG?!
CALL AN AMBULANCE!
AND SO, GRANDPA KANJURO CAME TO LIVE WITH ME, TOO.



SIGN: JOJOTHAN'S COFFEE & RESTAURANT

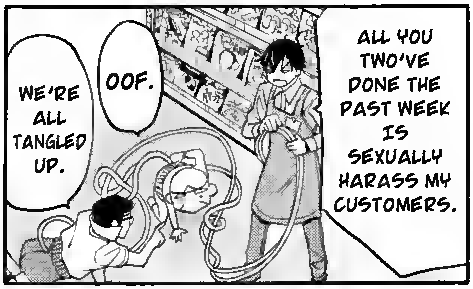
I KNOW IT'S HOT, BUT GOING BRALESS?
I DIDN'T!
DAMN, I LOST AGAIN...
CLICK
AIYA, YOU'RE GOOD AT FIGHTING GAMES!
DAMN RIGHT, I GREW UP IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF FIGHTERS!


LECTURE 14
THE "EDISON" THEORY
OOH, THIS IS SO CUTE!
THEY'VE GOT THE NEW VERSION!
I WANT IT SO BAD-
SQUEE
SQUEE
BLAH
BLAH


I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE OPEN 24 HOURS!
FLIP
WELCOME TO MODERN TIMES!
WAHAHA
わはは。
YUP, YOU JUST LAY AROUND AND NEW GIRLS COME ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
CONVENIENCE STORES ARE SO... CONVENIENT.

TUG
キュッ
QUIT SCREWING AROUND!

HUH?!
YOU QUIT SCREWING AROUND, BOY!

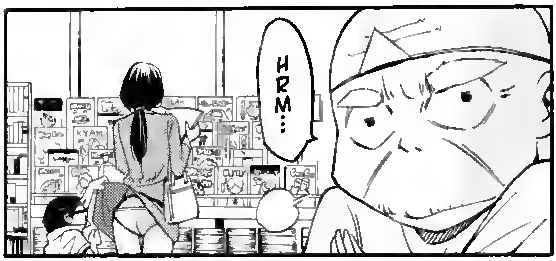

OOF.
WE'RE ALL TANGLED UP.
ALL YOU TWO'VE DONE THE PAST WEEK IS SEXUALLY HARASS MY CUSTOMERS.

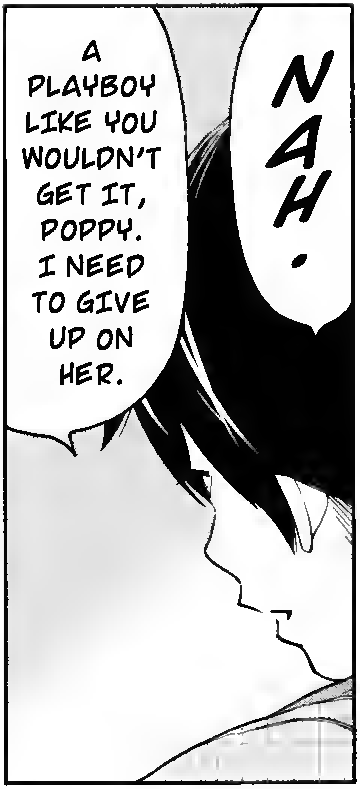
THE GAL YOU WANT THE MOST IS STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO YOU, WHY DON'T YOU MAKE A MOVE?!
SAKI-SAN...
SALE!

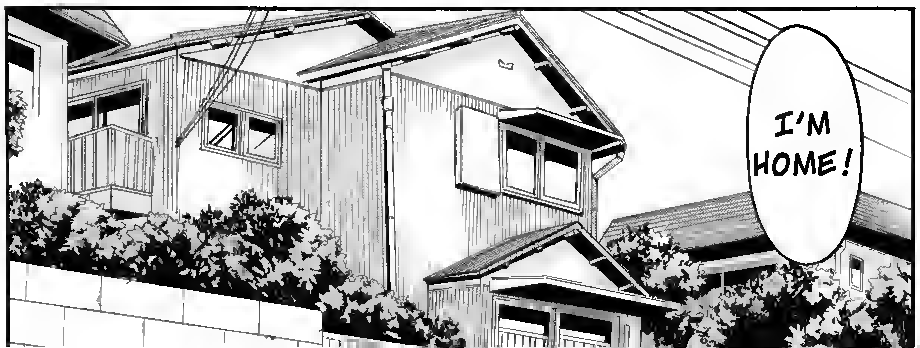
IT'S TRUE, I NEVER STOPPED LIKING SAKI-SAN...

I'M HAPPY JUST BEING ABLE TO TALK WITH HER AS COWORKERS.
YAMAHATA-KUN, REGISTER!

STEP STEP
COMING!
HEY, KANJI!


HRM...


NAH.
A PLAYBOY LIKE YOU WOULDN'T GET IT, POPPY. I NEED TO GIVE UP ON HER.


I'M HOME!

HELLO, KANJI.
I BOUGHT SOME DUMPLINGS, WOULD YOU LIKE ONE?
SURE, IN A LITTLE BIT.
I GUESS I CAN'T TELL NANA ABOUT POPPY
AND HIS PERVERTED ESCAPADES IN THE AFTERLINE AND LIVING WORLD.
SNEAK キシ
SNEAK キシ

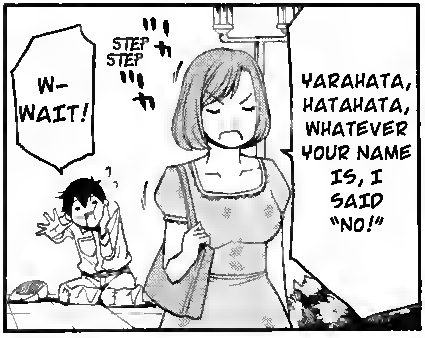
HAAA AAAH, I'M EXHAUSTED
BEING POSSESSED BY TWO GHOSTS'LL DO THAT DO YOU.
YAHHATA
FLOP
FOR GOD'S SAKE, POPPY, AT LEAST CLOSE THE BROWSER WHEN YOU'RE DONE WATCHING PORN.

Tube
?
"YUU-TUBE?"
OH, LIKE YUU YUU HAKUSHO
0:00 / 9:24

100%
Download
カチッ
CLICK
SO THE AFTERLIFE HAS STREAMING, HUH...
ゴオオオオオオオオオン
GOOOOOOOUUUUUUUN
CHIT CHAT
ヤヴヤヴヤヴ
BEEEEP
プゥーン
HONK HONK
プープー
GAGAN
ガガン
KSSSSH
ゴゴゴ
!!?

WHAT TOWN IS THIS?!
IT'S LIKE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

BRUDUDUDU
7"0000...


W-WAIT!
STEP STEP
YARAHATA, HATAHATA, WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS, I SAID "NO!"

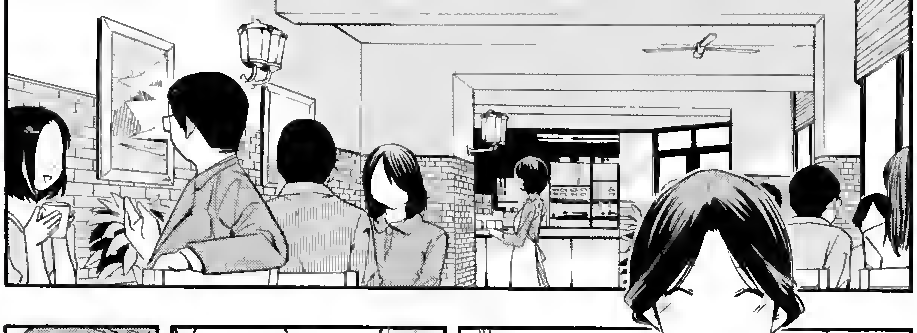
10
SLAP
LEAVE ME ALONE!
!?

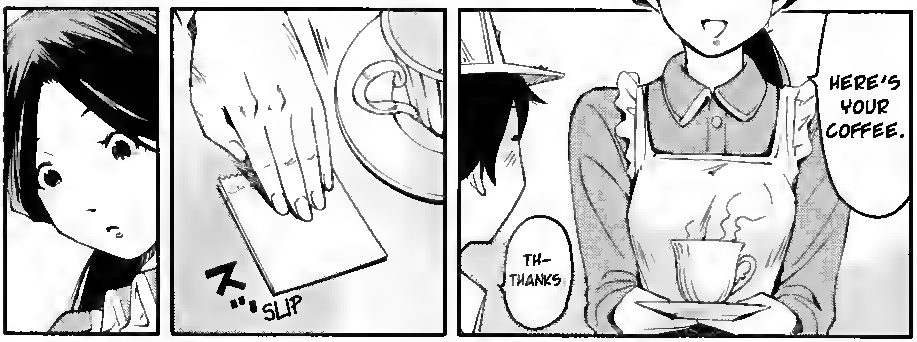
YARAHATA...?

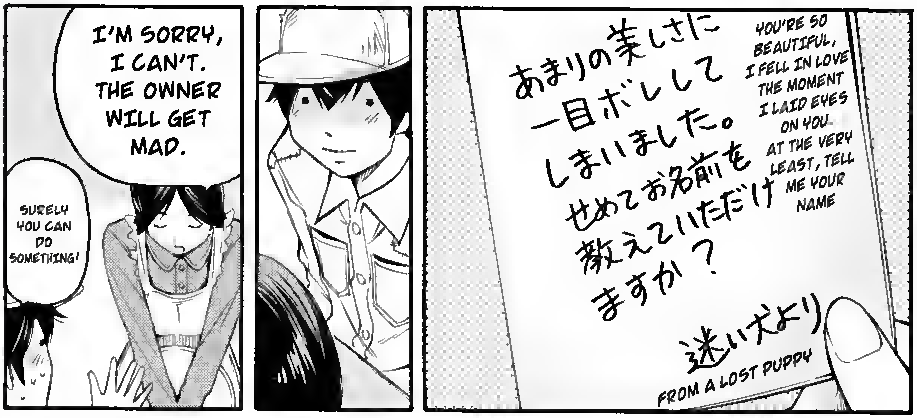
SIGN: YAMADA AUTOS
PODPY?!
MAN, THAT STINGS...
IS THAT...

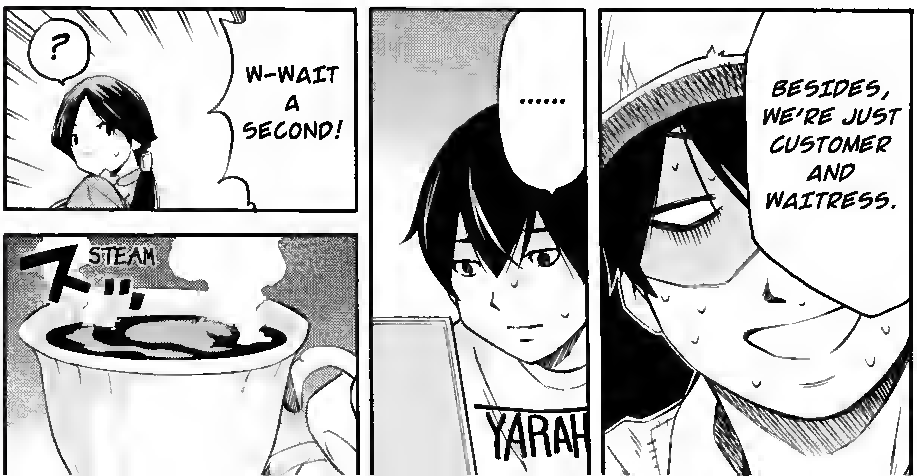
...
HE'S AS BAD WITH WOMEN AS ME.
HATA
TOKYO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A MAGICAL WONDERLAND WHERE YOU COULD HAVE IT ALL.
BUT WORK SUCKS, I'M BROKE,
AND THE WOMEN WON'T GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY.
山本商
BAH, ALL THEY CARE ABOUT ARE LOOKS AND MONEY.
DING-A-LING
カラン
カラーン
SHALL WE FIND A NICE CAFE?
YES!
はぁー
HAAH
HMM?
I SHOULD HEAD BACK TO THE STICKS...

WOW, WHAT A TOMATO!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
NO, IF YOU GO IN YOU WON'T HAVE THE FARE TO GET HOME!
DINGA LING
カラン コロン
...
150円
150円



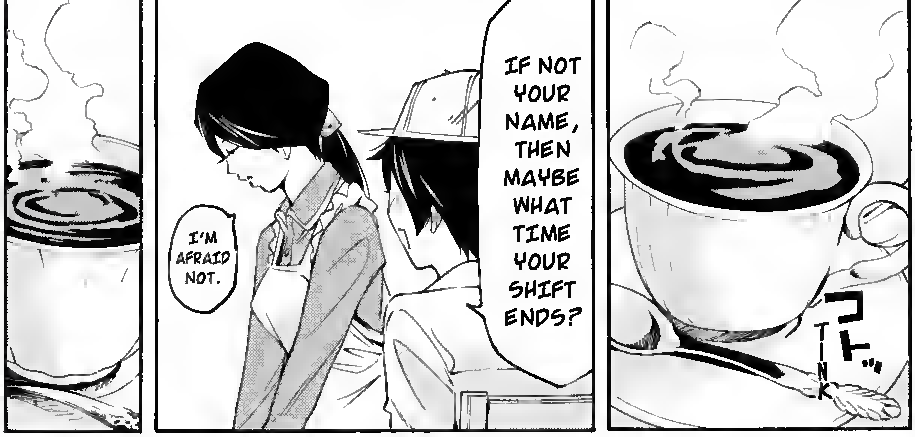

HERE'S YOUR COFFEE.
TH-THANKS
SLIP

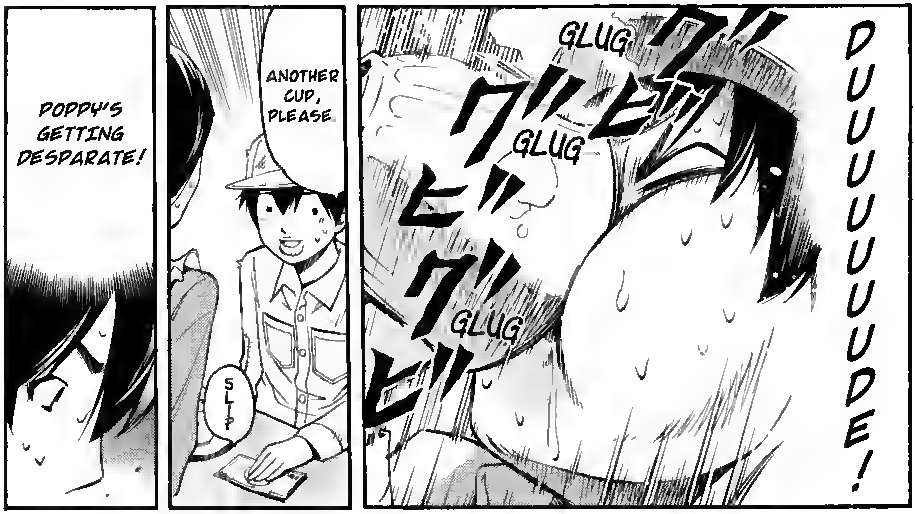

I'M SORRY, I CAN'T. THE OWNER WILL GET MAD.
SURELY YOU CAN DO SOMETHING!
あまりの美しさに一目ボレしてしまいました。せめてお名前を教えていただけますか？
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, I FELL IN LOVE THE MOMENT I LAID EYES ON YOU. AT THE VERY LEAST, TELL ME YOUR NAME
迷い犬より
FROM A LOST PUPPY


?
W-WAIT A SECOND!
STEAM
.....
YARAH
BESIDES, WE'RE JUST CUSTOMER AND WAITRESS.

GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
!!?

Y-YES SIR.
ANOTHER CUP, PLEASE.
TINK


IF NOT YOUR NAME, THEN MAYBE WHAT TIME YOUR SHIFT ENDS?
I'M AFRAID NOT.
コトッ
TINK


DADDY'S GETTING DESPARATE!
ANOTHER CUP, PLEASE.
SLIP
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
DUUUUUUDE!

ANOTHER CUP, PLEASE.
TUNK
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
NOT AGAIN?!

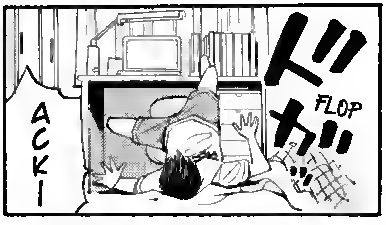
HE'S USING THOSE MOMENTS TO TRY AND TALK TO HER!
WHEN HE ORDERS ANOTHER CUP, SHE HAS TO SERVE HIM AGAIN!
SORRY.
HOW ABOUT THE FIRST LETTER?
HE'S NOT GETTING DESPERATE AT ALL!
WAIT, NO.
AND HE'S BURNING HIS THROAT CHUGGING STEAMING-HOT COFFEE ALL FOR THE SAKE OF ONE MORE BRIEF MOMENT OF CONTACT.
キャリーン
TING
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
BAP
BAP
J-JUST A MOMENT!
JINGLE
HE'S SHORT ON CASH!
ゴト…
TINK
ANOTHER...

ANOTHER... CUP...
THE LAST CUP.
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GRIP
TINK
HERE YOU ARE, SIR.

AH-
SLIP
高嶺
花
TAKANE HANA
SPEAKING STRICTLY AS YOUR WAITRESS...
STEP
STEP
STEP
TOO MUCH COFFEE AT ONCE IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH.

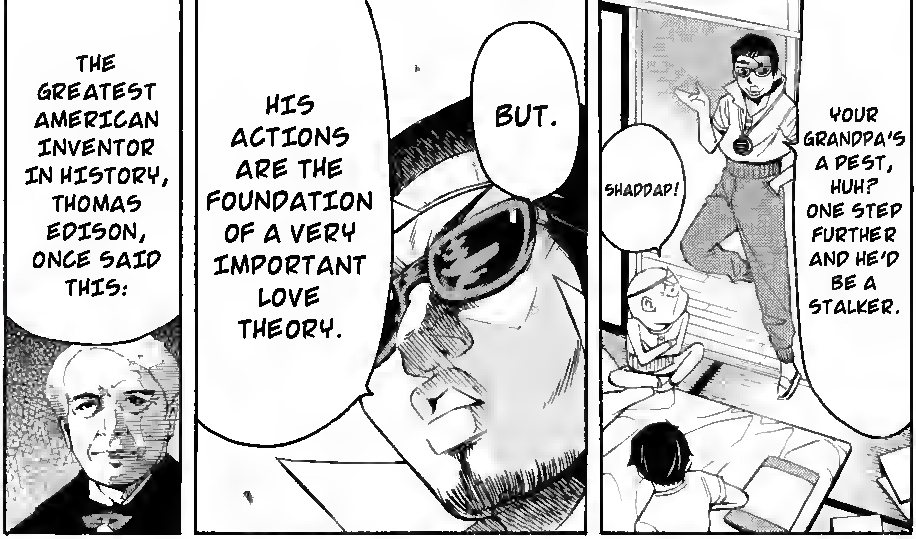
YES!
TARATA

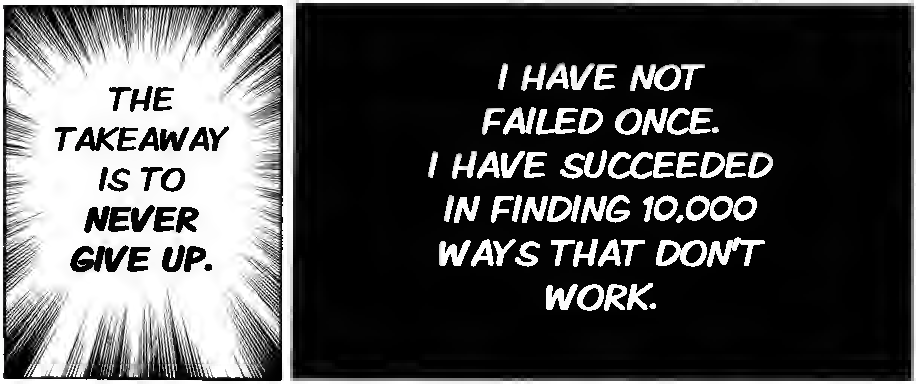
NANA!
YARIJATI


K!!
FLOP
ACKI

HUH?
HANA...

POPPY, AIYA!
OH, YOU WATCHED THE VIDEOS?

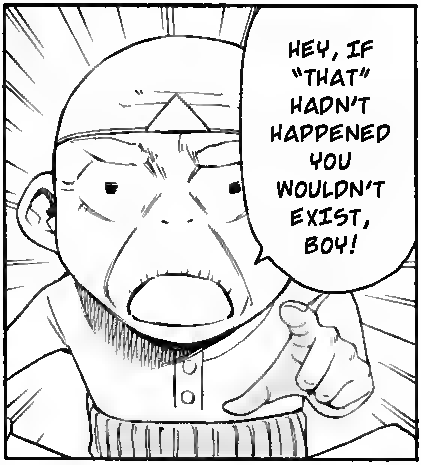

THE GREATEST AMERICAN INVENTOR IN HISTORY, THOMAS EDISON, ONCE SAID THIS:
HIS ACTIONS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF A VERY IMPORTANT LOVE THEORY.
BUT.
SHADDAP!
YOUR GRANDPA'S A PEST, HUH? ONE STEP FURTHER AND HE'D BE A STALKER.


THE TAKEAWAY IS TO NEVER GIVE UP.
I HAVE NOT FAILED ONCE. I HAVE SUCCEEDED IN FINDING 10,000 WAYS THAT DON'T WORK.

THAT IS THE "EDISON" THEORY!
YOU CAN ONLY SUCCEED!
IF YOU CONTINUE TO TRY.

ポー
PAT
LIKE YOU DID, POPPY?
CAN I SUCCEED...?
YOUR POPPY MAY BE A DIRTY OLD MAN, BUT THAT'S MY HEART'S GREATEST WISH.
I WANT MY BELOVED GRANDSON TO EXPERIENCE THE JOYS OF LOVE, LIKE I DID.
POPPY...
AHH. WHAT A RELAXING BATH.

I DON'T WANNA SEE THAT!
AHH, THE FIRST NIGHT HANA-SAN AND I SPENT TOGETHER.
AHAHAA
SLAM
WHAT THE HELL?!
COME ON..
H-HANA-SAN, I'LL MAKE YOU THE HAPPIEST WOMAN ALIVE!



THE "EDISON" THEORY

EVERY FAILURE IS THE SUCCESSFUL DISCOVERY OF A WAY THAT DOESN'T WORK. NEVER GIVE UP, AND YOU WILL FIND YOUR PATH.

THE "SECONDS" THEORY

A WAITER OR WAITRESS HAS TO KEEP SERVING YOU IF YOU KEEP ORDERING. USE THE CHANCE TO TALK TO THEM, AND SWALLOW YOUR ORDER IN ONE GULP TO LEAVE THE MAXIMUM IMPACT ON THEIR HEART.

YOU'RE STILL WATCHING PEOPLE BUMP UGLIES?
OOH-
YEAH? RIGHT THERE?
BLINK
パチ

DON'T WATCH MY PARENTS!
AND DON'T COMMENT ON THEIR TECHNIQUE!
カリ
はいっ
BLEUGH!
MAN, YOUR DAD IS CLUELESS.

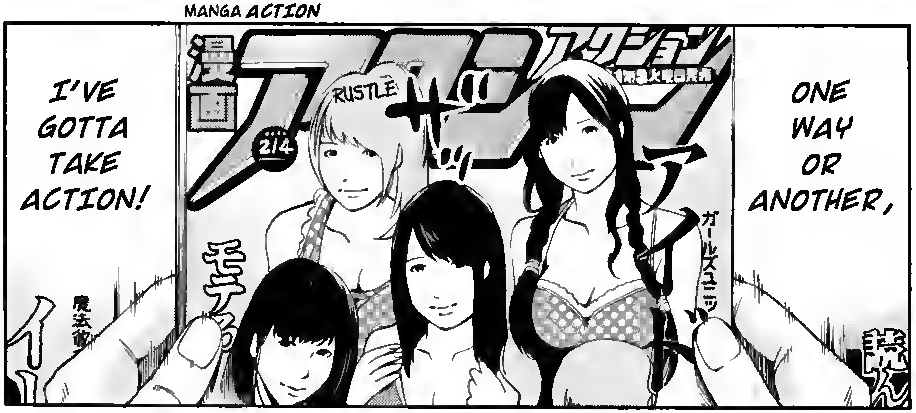
.....
YOU'LL WAKE THE NEIGHBORS.
HEY, KANJI, NO SHOUTING LATE AT NIGHT, YOU HEAR ME?

LECTURE 15
THE "SURPRISE" THEORY (PART 1)
ナイワ広告社
100円

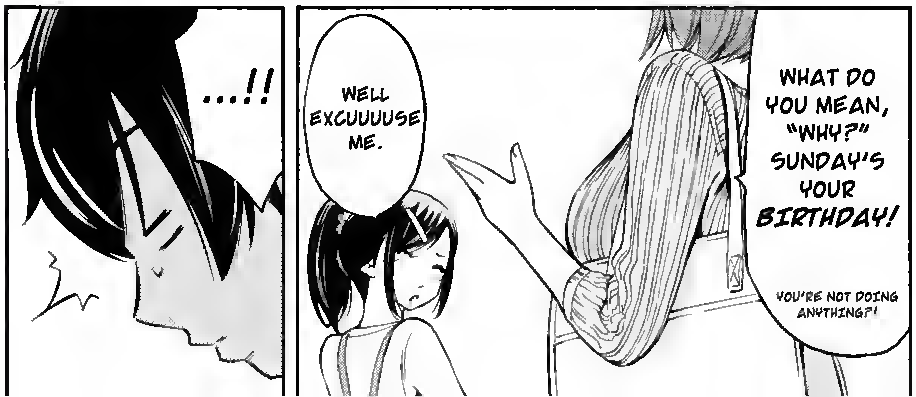
?
DO I HAVE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
古里

WHUMP
ドサ
OKAY.
BE RIGHT BACK, GOTTA STOCK THE SHELVES!
OH- NO-
NOTHING!

I'M TOO SCARED OF BEING REJECTED.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SHE HAS A BOYFRIEND.
BUT I JUST CAN'T WORK UP THE NERVE.
I SWORE I WAS GONNA ASK SAKI OUT THIS TIME,

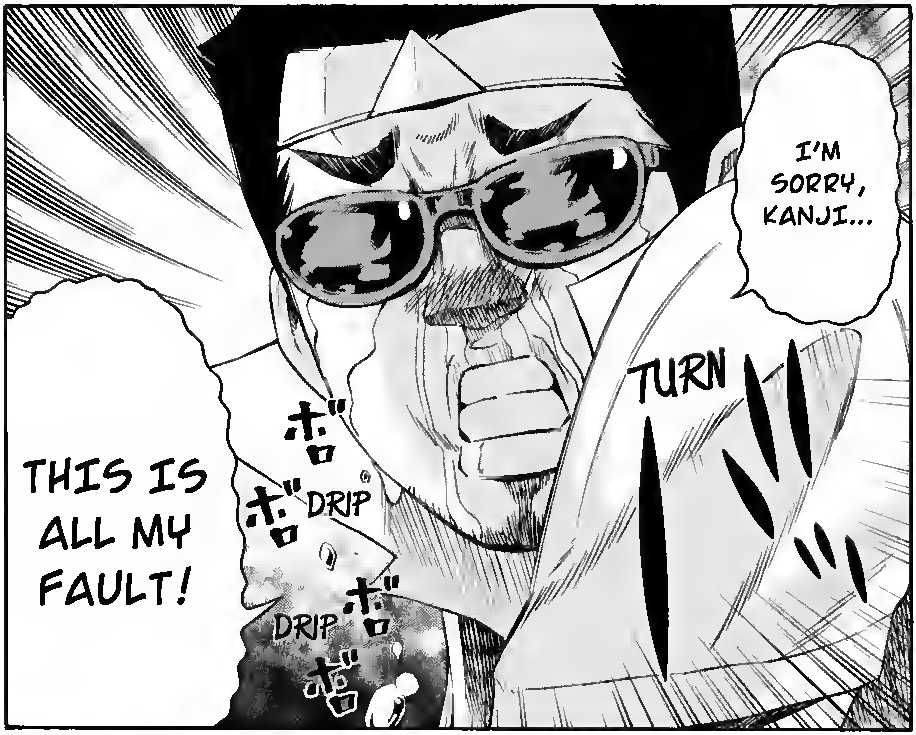

MANGA ACTION
I'VE GOTTA TAKE ACTION!
RUSTLE
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER,

NOT REALLY, WHY?
MUST BE ONE OF SAKI-SAN'S FRIENDS.
SAKI, YOU GOT ANY PLANS FOR SUNDAY?


...!!
WELL EXCUUUUSE ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHY?" SUNDAY'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!
YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING?!

IS
SAKI-SAN'S BIRTH DAY
SUNDAY!
チケット
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT!

I'M HOME!
OH, AIYA, YOU'RE HERE.
KA CHIK
カチャ
I'M GLAD I'VE BEEN SAVING MY PAYCHECKS.
AIYA, THIS WEEKEND I'M GONNA ASK SAKI OUT!

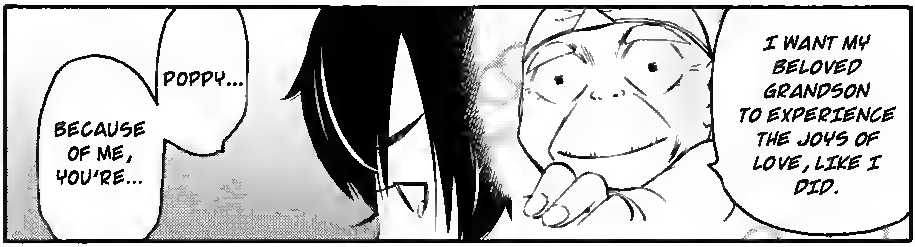

I'M SORRY, KANJI...
TURN
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!
ボ
ボ
DRIP
DRIP
ボ
ボ

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOUR POPPY... YOUR POPPY...

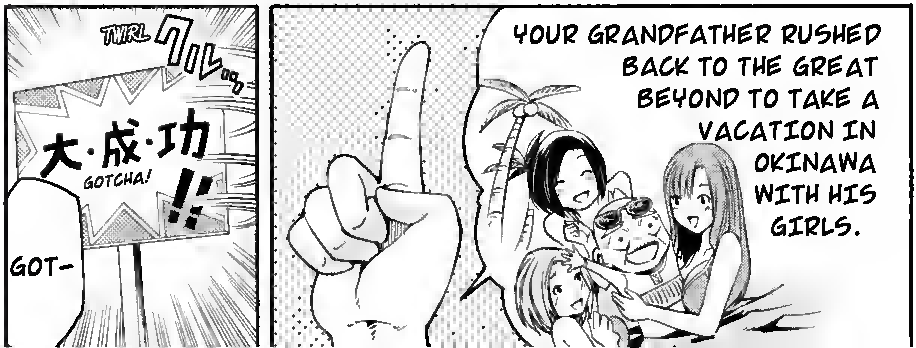
KA
HE'S
BEEN
ERADICATED!

HE WHAAAT?!
FWOOOOOM

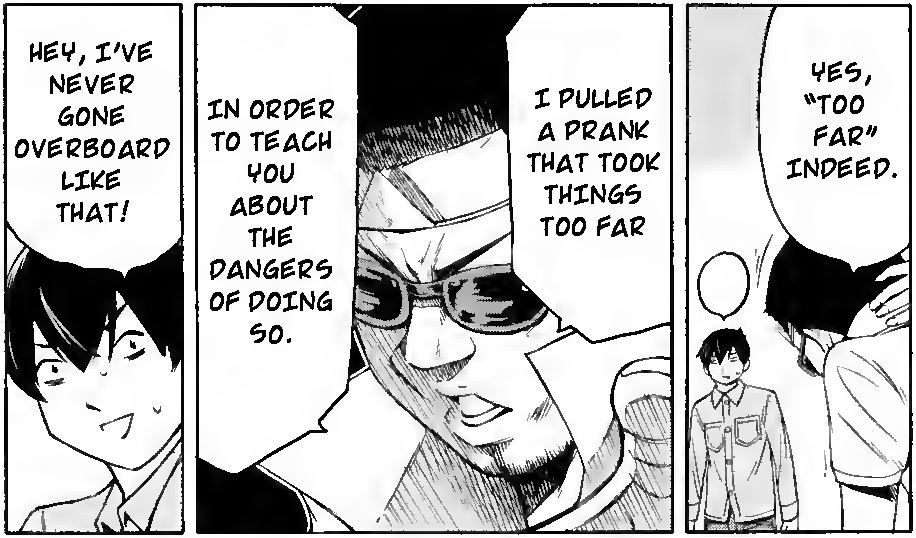
YOU MEAN HE'S BEEN ERASED FROM EXISTENCE?!
ERADICATED...
SHOWING THAT TO A LIVING HUMAN IS A VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT WORLD'S CONSTITUTION!
THE VIDEO YOU SAW OF HIM IN HIS YOUTH...

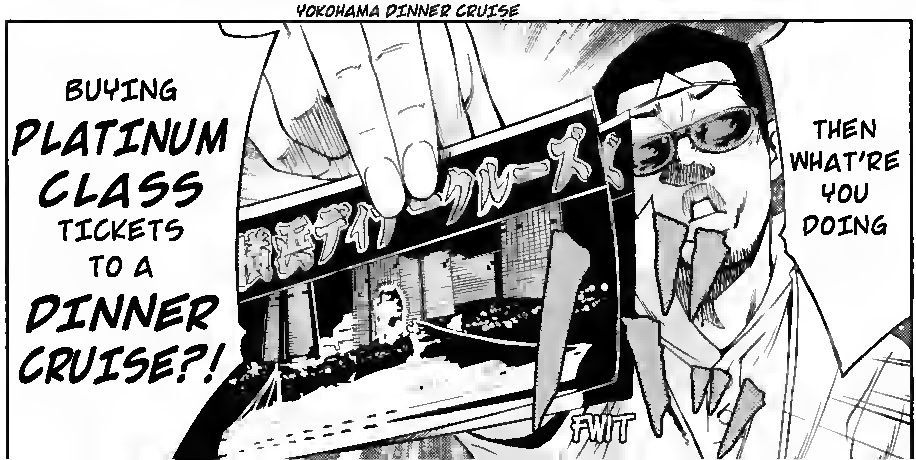


JUST KIDDING - SURPRISE!



DON'T GOTCHA ME! YOU WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME!
大・成・功!!
GOTCHA!
SLAM
CHU WAAAA!


HEY, I'VE NEVER GONE OVERBOARD LIKE THAT!
IN ORDER TO TEACH YOU ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DOING SO.
I PULLED A PRANK THAT TOOK THINGS TOO FAR
YES, "TOO FAR" INDEED.

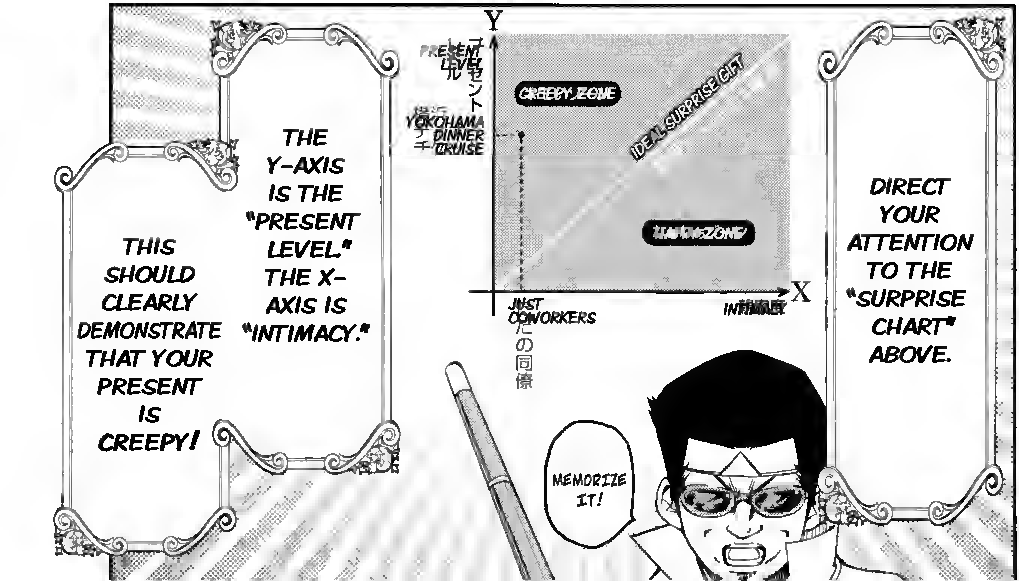

YOKOHAMA DINNER CRUISE
BUYING PLATINUM CLASS TICKETS TO A DINNER CRUISE?!
THEN WHAT'RE YOU DOING
FWIT

IMAGINE HOW SAKI WILL REACT IF YOU GIVE THESE TO HER.
HM?

IT'S CREEPY!
INNER, THE NIGHT SKYLINE, SHE'LL BE THRILLED-
NO, MY TICKETS!
RRRRRRR—P

DINNER CRUISE TICKETS ARE CREEPY!
WELL, THE TICKETS THEMSELVES ARE VICTIMS.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TORE THEM UP!
PRAY FOR THEM.
THE PROBLEM HERE IS YOU GIVING THEM, MR. "JUST A COWORKER!"
NGHK-
YES, SURPRISES ARE IMPORTANT IN THE WORLD OF ROMANCE.
HOWEVER...

IF YOU DON'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE "SENSE OF DISTANCE" THE OTHER PERSON WILL WITHDRAW FROM YOU!
THAT IS THE "SURPRISE" THEORY!


THIS SHOULD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THAT YOUR PRESENT IS CREEPY!
THE Y-AXIS IS THE "PRESENT LEVEL." THE X-AXIS IS "INTIMACY."
Y
PRESENT LEVEL
CREEPY ZONE
IDEAL SURPRISE GIFT
YOKOHAMA DINNER CRUISE
X
JUST COWORKERS
INTIMATE
DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE "SURPRISE CHART" ABOVE.
MEMORIZE IT!

FAIL TO DO SO AND YOU'LL BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY AS "CREEPY KANJI!"
SWISH
IS THAT CLEAR?! I'M GONNA BURN THE "SURPRISE" THEORY INTO YOUR BRAIN!

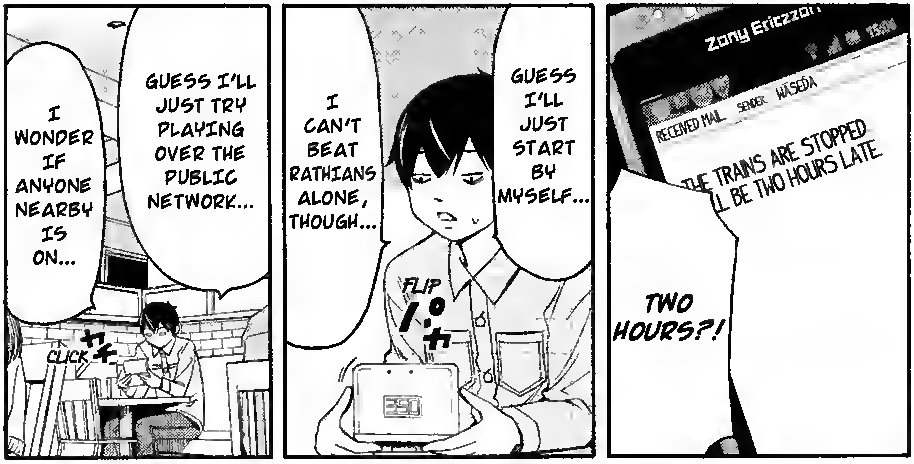
WHAT?!
YOU FIGURE IT OUT.
DUNNO.
WHAT HAPPENED TO PURSUING THE THEORY INTO MY BRAIN?!

UMM...
.....
コワモテ漢字!?

SO WHAT SHOULD I GET HER FOR HER BIRTHDAY?

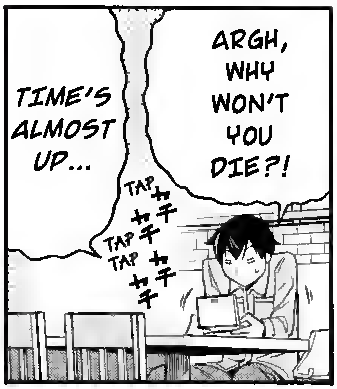
HMM.

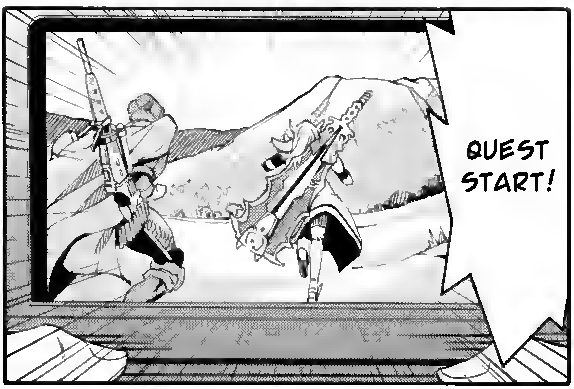
AH, THAT'S THEM.
FORGET HIM, THOUGH, WASEDA AND NAKANO ARE REALLY LATE.
ブーン ブーン
DAMN AIYA, THAT WASN'T FUNNY... I'LL GET HIM FOR THAT...
SAKI-SAN'S BIRTHDAY'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER AND I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO GET.


I WONDER IF ANYONE NEARBY IS ON...
GUESS I'LL JUST TRY PLAYING OVER THE PUBLIC NETWORK...
CLICK カチ
I CAN'T BEAT RATHIANS ALONE, THOUGH...
GUESS I'LL JUST START BY MYSELF...
FLIP
Zany Eriezzan
RECEIVED MAIL SENDER: WASEDA
THE TRAINS ARE STOPPED ...LL BE TWO HOURS LATE.
TWO HOURS?!

MORISHITA... WONDER WHAT CHARACTER HE USES.
BEEP
ONLINE
Waiting for Party Members
MORISHITA
PIPONG
ピポン
Player Select
ONLINE
Waiting for Party Members
MORISHITA
ONE PERSON!
LUCKY,
Players found.

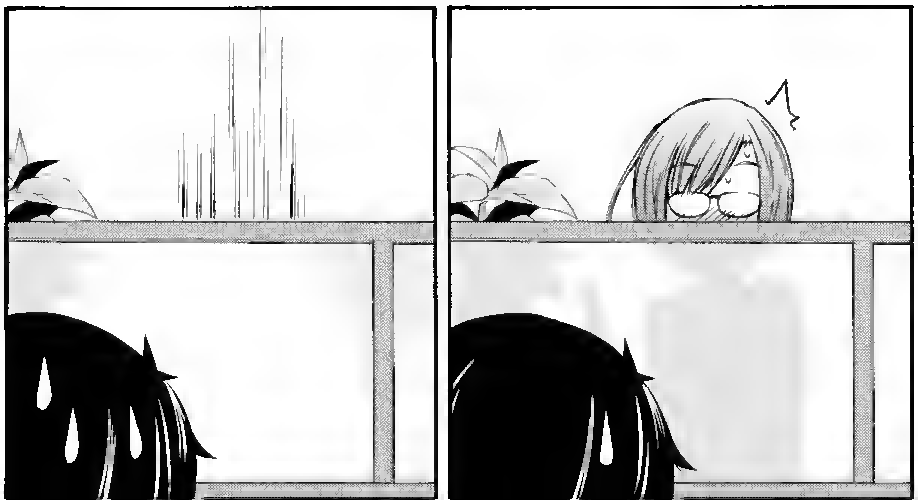
WHOA, THIS GUY LOOKS LIKE THE REAL DEAL!
I BET THE TWO OF US CAN HANDLE THIS.
Equipment
2/4
Empress's Blossom
Nibelsnarf Helm S
Wroggi Vest S
Nibelsnarf Braces S
Nibelsnarf Faulds S
Nibelsnarf Greaves S
MORISHITA:
Nice to meet you, let's do ou
best.


ARGH, WHY WON'T YOU DIE?!
TIME'S ALMOST UP...
TAP
TAP
TAP


QUEST START!

YES, EAT IT!
GRU
SLASH

EAT IT!
SLAP
カッ
ビクッ
ATTACH



A...
GIRL?
I'VE NEVER GAMED WITH A GIRL BEFORE.
I FIGURED IT WOULD BE AN OLD GUY WITH A BEARD JUDGING FROM THE AVATAR...
SHIVER
ぶるっ
GREAT, NOW I'M NERVOUS.

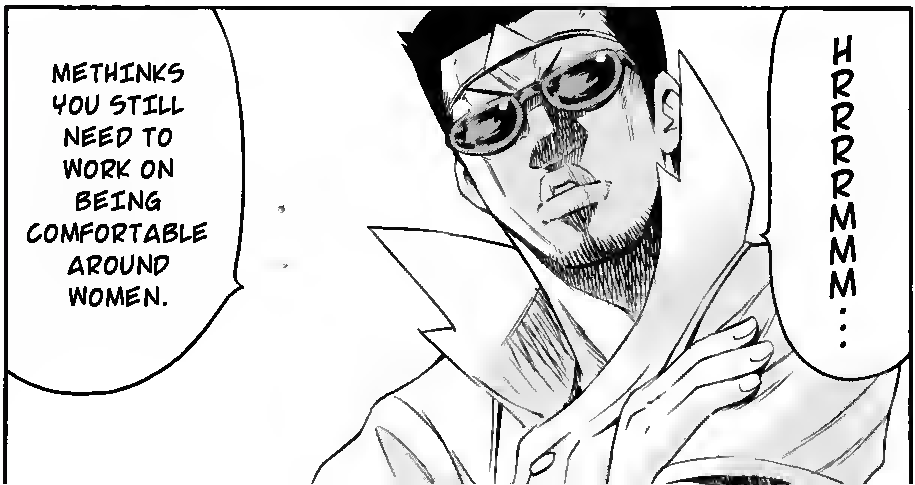
EXCUSE ME-
BOOZ
!!

THE "SURPRISE" THEORY PART 1

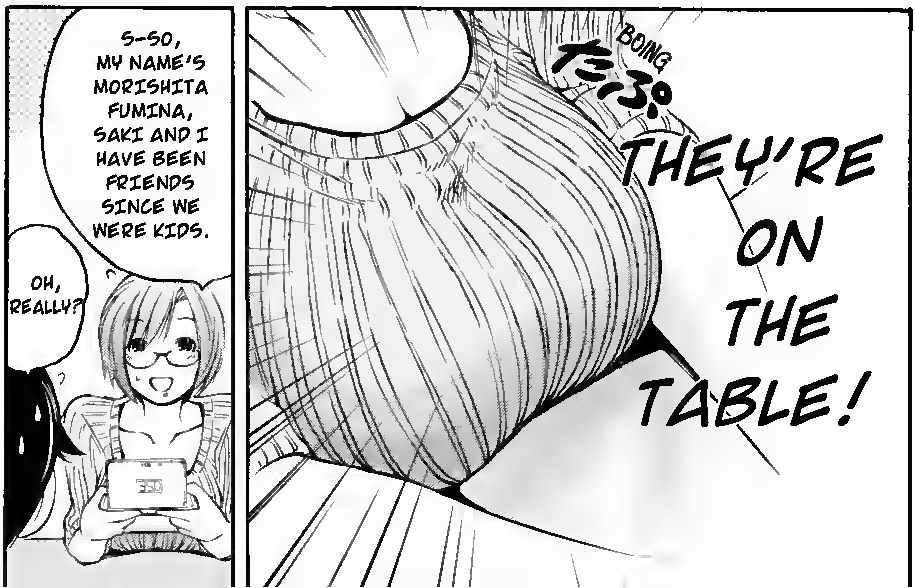
KEEP IN MIND HOW FAMILIAR YOU ARE WITH THE OTHER PERSON.
A PRESENT OF THE RIGHT LEVEL CAN MOVE THINGS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. BUT GO TOO FAR AND IT'LL BE CREEPY.
CONSULT THE "SURPRISE CHART" AND PICK YOUR GIFT ACCORDINGLY.

THIS CHAPTER'S THEORY

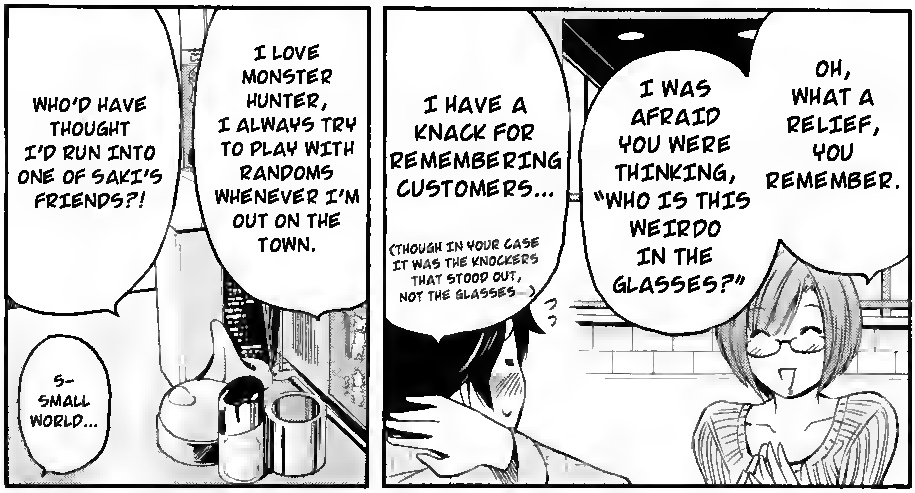
LECTURE 16
THE "SURPRISE" THEORY (PART 2)
MAY I SIT WITH YOU?
OH! OF-OF COURSE!

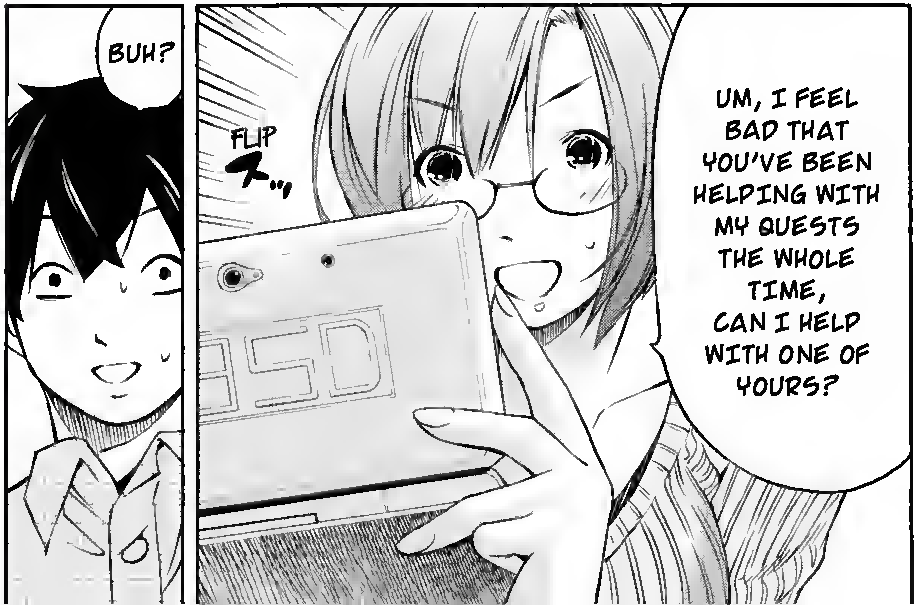

METHINKS YOU STILL NEED TO WORK ON BEING COMFORTABLE AROUND WOMEN.
HRRRMMM...

TOGE-N


S-SO, MY NAME'S MORISHITA FUMINA, SAKI AND I HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
OH, REALLY?
BOING
たぷ
THEY'RE ON THE TABLE!

OH, YEAH, I'VE SEEN YOU AT THE STORE!
I'M YARAHATA.


I LOVE MONSTER HUNTER, I ALWAYS TRY TO PLAY WITH RANDOMS WHENEVER I'M OUT ON THE TOWN.
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO ONE OF SAKI'S FRIENDS?!
S-SMALL WORLD...
I HAVE A KNACK FOR REMEMBERING CUSTOMERS...
(THOUGH IN YOUR CASE IT WAS THE KNOCKERS THAT STOOD OUT, NOT THE GLASSES...)
I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE THINKING, "WHO IS THIS WEIRDO IN THE GLASSES?"
OH, WHAT A RELIEF, YOU REMEMBER.


BUH?
FLIP
UM, I FEEL BAD THAT YOU'VE BEEN HELPING WITH MY QUESTS THE WHOLE TIME, CAN I HELP WITH ONE OF YOURS?

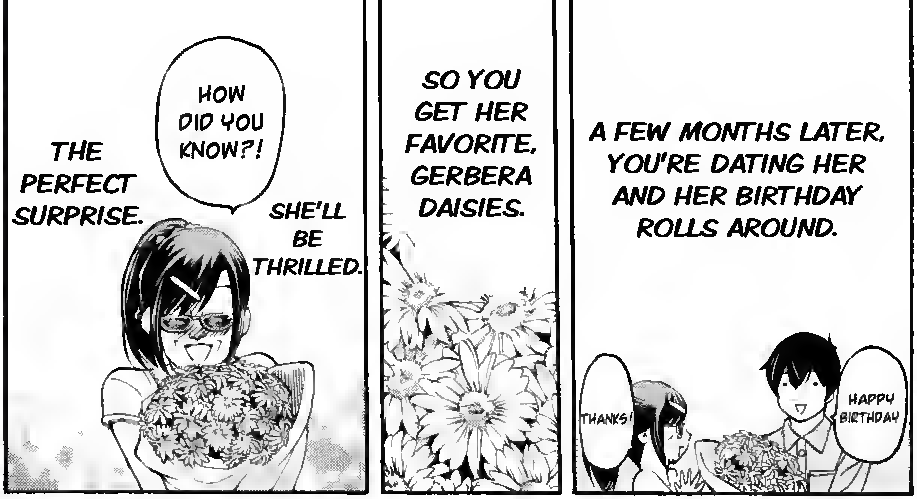
OH, DO YOU NEED TO LEAVE?
NOPE, GOT NOTHING BUT TIME!
GREAT! LET'S GET EQUIPPED!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
ONE OF SAKI-SAN'S FRIENDS PLAYS MONSTER HUNTER...
AND SHE'S REALLY INTO IT, TOO
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE NERVOUS!
ビク
TWITCH

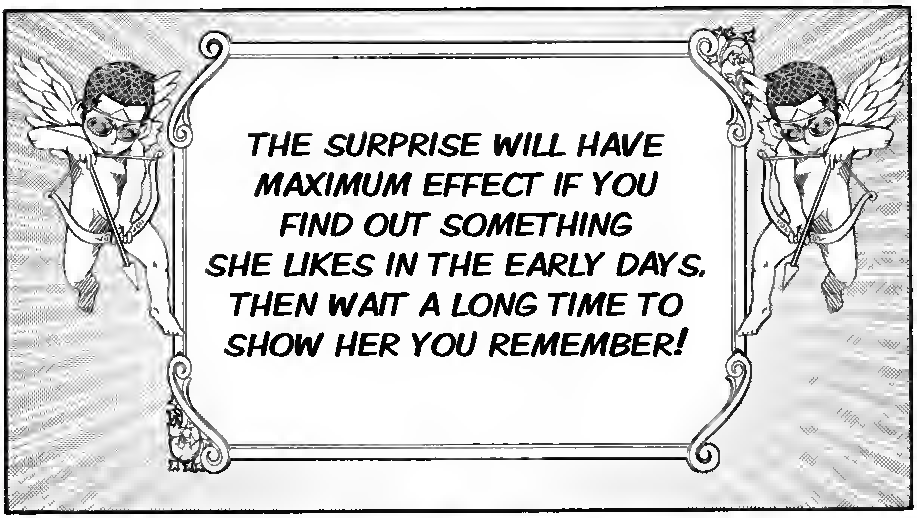
AIYA'S HERE.
GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THERE!
ナデ
BWOING

YOU'RE ALWAYS BLIND TO THESE OPPORTUNITIES, SO LET ME HELP YOU.

THE TIME BOMB!
THE "SURPRISE" THEORY PART 2

LET'S SAY YOU'RE TALKING TO A GIRL FOR THE FIRST TIME. A NICE, CASUAL CONVERSATION, DURING WHICH YOU END UP FINDING OUT WHAT HER FAVORITE FLOWER IS.
TIME BOMB...?

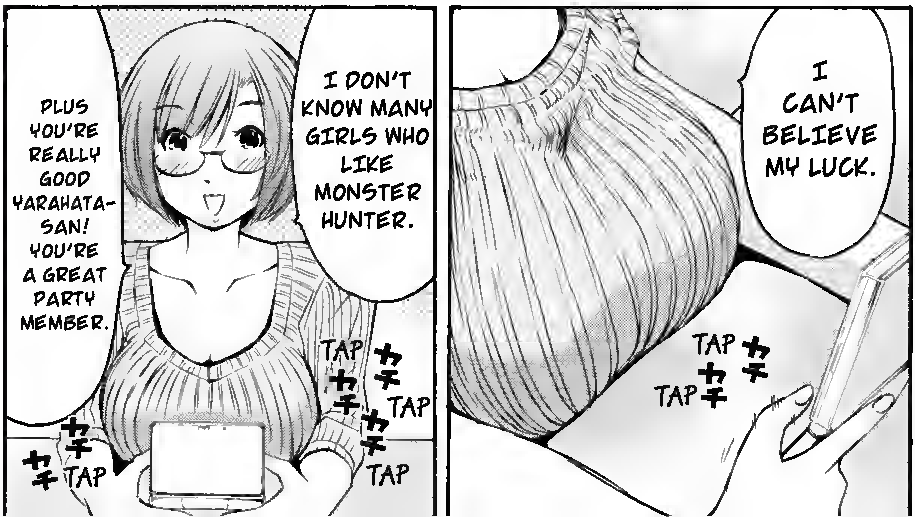

THE PERFECT SURPRISE.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
SHE'LL BE THRILLED.
SO YOU GET HER FAVORITE, GERBERA DAISIES.
A FEW MONTHS LATER, YOU'RE DATING HER AND HER BIRTHDAY ROLLS AROUND.
THANKS!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

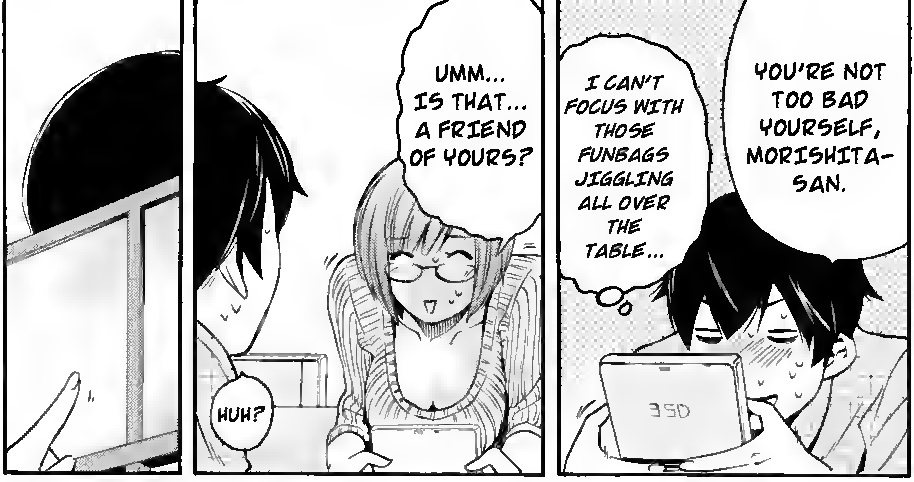

THE SURPRISE WILL HAVE MAXIMUM EFFECT IF YOU FIND OUT SOMETHING SHE LIKES IN THE EARLY DAYS. THEN WAIT A LONG TIME TO SHOW HER YOU REMEMBER!

BUT SAKI'S FRIEND IS HERE TO SAVE THE DAY!
IF YOU WERE TO ASK NOW IT WOULDN'T BE A SURPRISE AT ALL!
DAH-
NOW, IT'S RIGHT BEFORE HER BIRTHDAY AND YOU'VE NEVER ASKED HER ABOUT HER FAVORITE FOODS, OR FLOWERS, OR PLACE, OR ANYTHING.

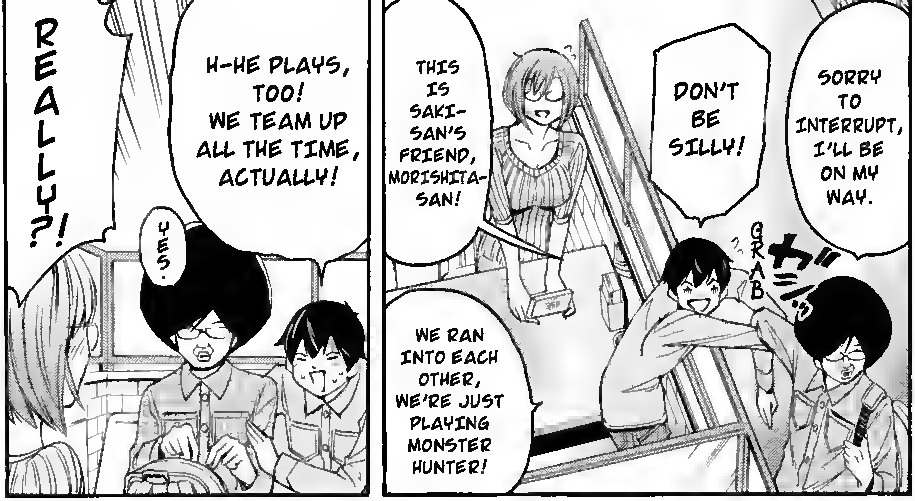
READY FOR THE NEXT ROUND?
WE'RE FIGHTING BRAGODETHS SO I'M MAXING OUT MY FIRE RESISTANCE.
R-RIGHT.
WAIT A SECOND!
ZU FLOP WA
GET MORI-MELONS HERE TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING SHE KNOWS ABOUT SAKI!

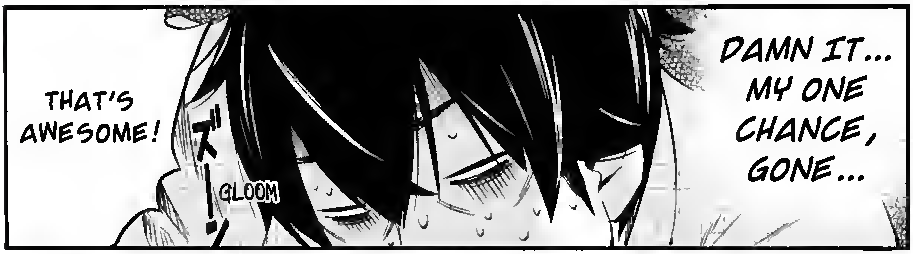
BA BA BA BA
BRU DU DU DU DU
TAP
TAP

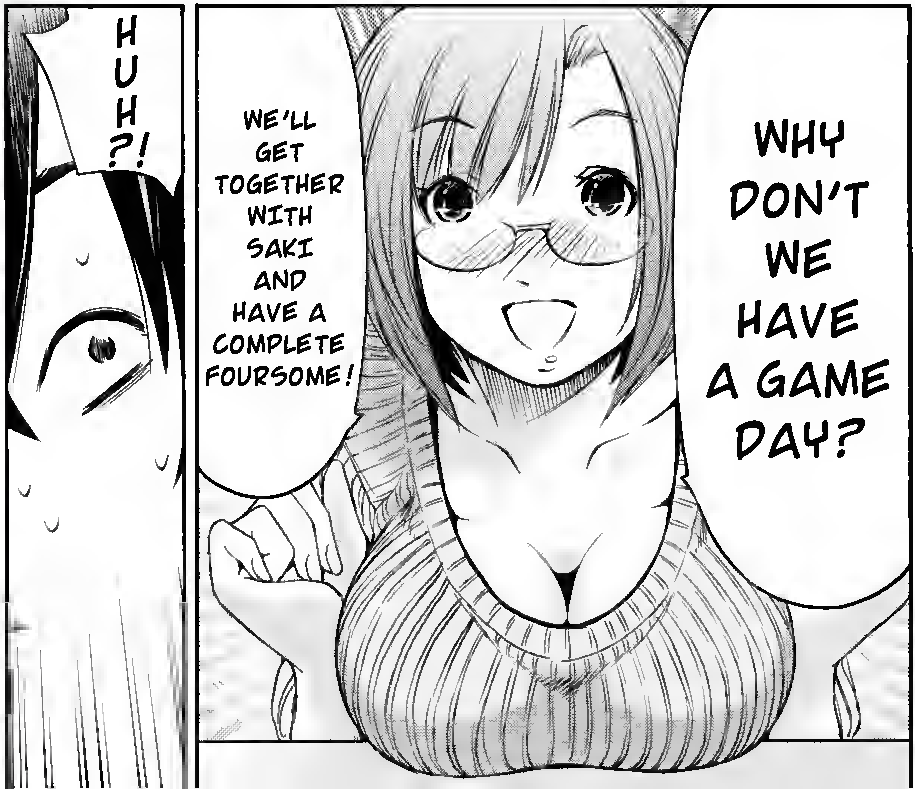

I DON'T KNOW MANY GIRLS WHO LIKE MONSTER HUNTER.
PLUS YOU'RE REALLY GOOD YARAHATA-SAN! YOU'RE A GREAT PARTY MEMBER.
TAP
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY LUCK.


YOU'RE NOT TOO BAD YOURSELF, MORISHITA-SAN.
I CAN'T FOCUS WITH THOSE FUNBAGS JIGGLING ALL OVER THE TABLE...
UMM... IS THAT... A FRIEND OF YOURS?
HUH?

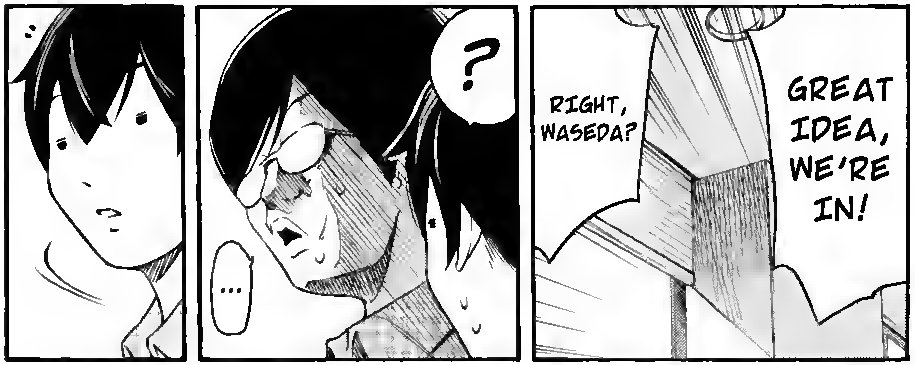
WASEDA!

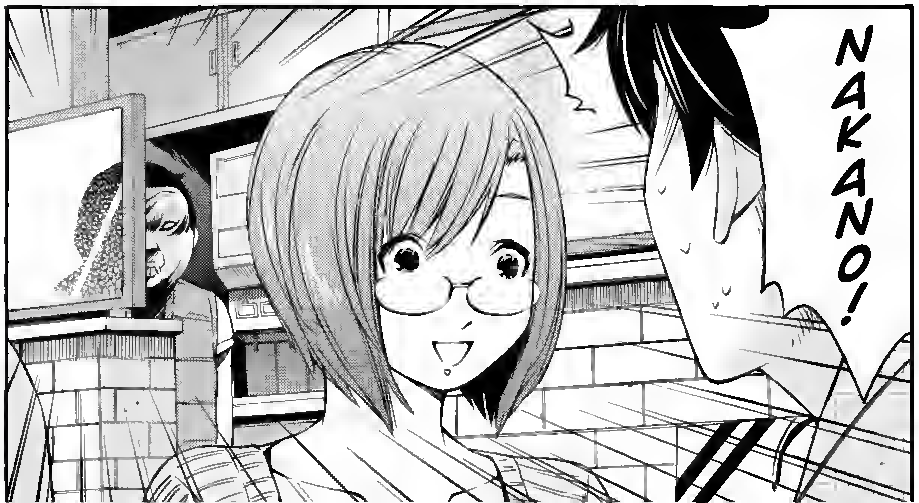

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, I'LL BE ON MY WAY.
DON'T BE SILLY!
THIS IS SAKI-SAN'S FRIEND, MORISHITA-SAN!
GRAB
WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER, WE'RE JUST PLAYING MONSTER HUNTER!
H-HE PLAYS, TOO! WE TEAM UP ALL THE TIME, ACTUALLY!
YES.
REALLY?!

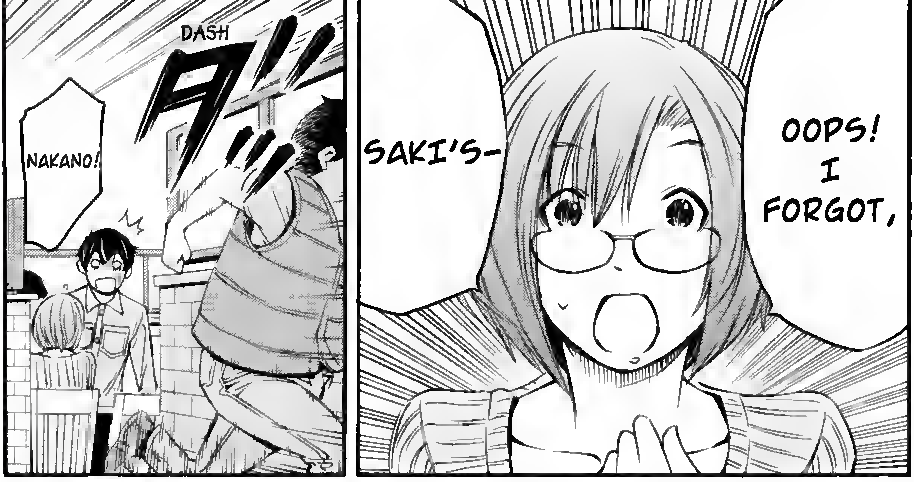

DAMN IT... MY ONE CHANCE, GONE...
GLOOM
THAT'S AWESOME!

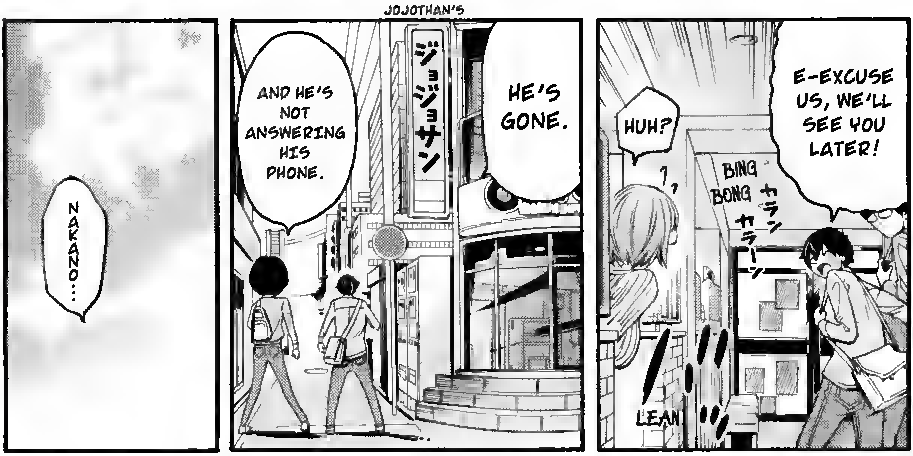

WHY DON'T WE HAVE A GAME DAY?
WE'LL GET TOGETHER WITH SAKI AND HAVE A COMPLETE FOURSOME!
HUH?!

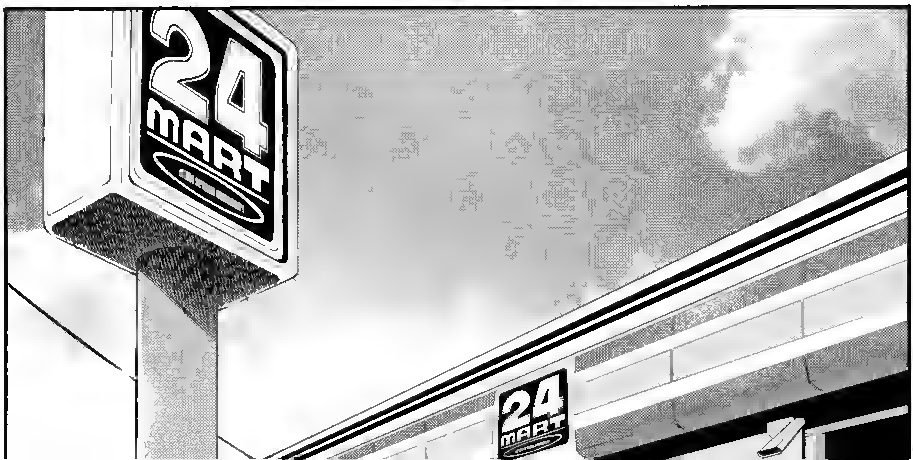
S-SAKI-SAN PLAYS, TOO?!
SLAM
ガラッ
YEP! SHE'S NEVER PLAYED WITH A GROUP BEFORE, SHE'LL BE THRILLED!
JACKPOT!
WHAT A DROP! MONSTER HUNTER IS MY HOME FIELD FOR SURE!


GREAT IDEA, WE'RE IN!
RIGHT, WASEDA?
?
…


NAKANO!


DASH
NAKANO!
SAKI'S-
OOPS! I FORGOT,


NAKANO...
JOJOTHAN'S
ジョジョサン
AND HE'S NOT ANSWERING HIS PHONE.
HE'S GONE.
HUH?
BING BONG カラン カラーン
E-EXCUSE US, WE'LL SEE YOU LATER!
LEAN


24 MART
24 MART

I KNOW!
YES! SHE'S EXCITED!
REALLY?! YOU PLAY MONSTER HUNTER TOO, YARAHATA-KUN?!
HOW HAVE WE NEVER TALKED ABOUT IT?!
吉里

OH-
IF YOU COME ALONG WE'LL HAVE A FULL 4-PERSON PARTY!
SO WE THOUGHT IT'D BE FUN TO GET TOGETHER AND ALL PLAY AT THE MONSTER HUNTER CAFE OR SOMETHING.

BUH?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

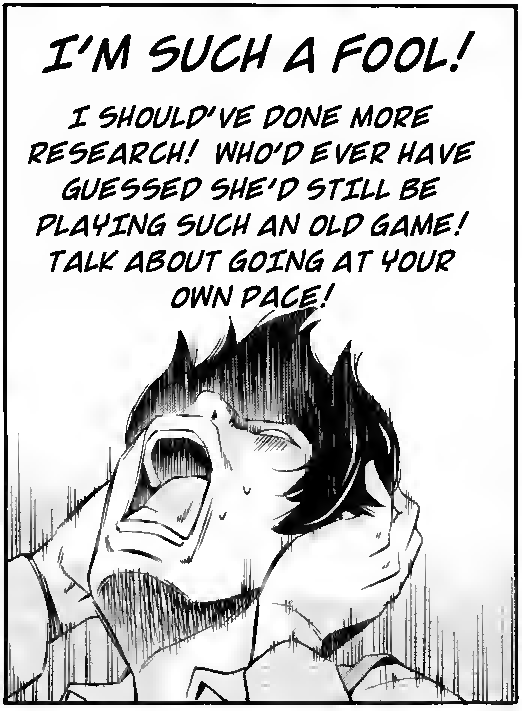
I'M NO GOOD ANYWAY,
I'D JUST GET IN THE WAY.
YOU THREE HAVE FUN.
AWW, COME ON...
HEY, WHY'S SHE GETTING SO MAD?
.....
TRUST ME, WASEDA'S A BEAST, HE'LL SUPPORT US JUST FINE!
DON'T SAY THAT!
IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE-
PLUS, AT THE CAFE, THE MENU'S ALL FUN STUFF LIKE "WELL-DONE STEAK" AND "MEGA POTIONS,"
FLINCH
THAT'S NOT IT!

I'M... STILL PLAYING THE OLD ONE...
BLUETOOTH

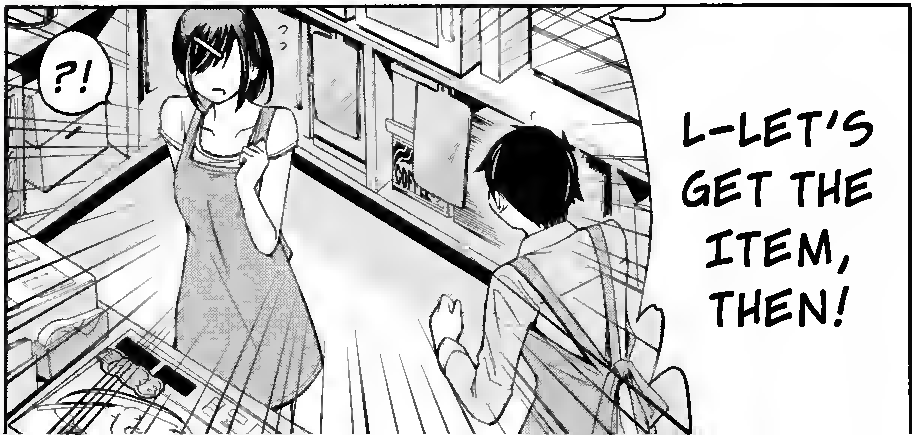
HUH? YOU MEAN... MONSTER HUNTER 3?
AH... WE'RE ALL PLAYING 4, WHICH IS ON A DIFFERENT SYSTEM...

THERE'S THIS ITEM I REALLY WANT TO GET, BUT I CAN'T KILL THE MONSTER BY MYSELF...
AND I DON'T WANT TO JUST ABANDON THE GAME WITHOUT FINISHING IT...

AAH, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT'S ADORABLE.
VERY GIRLY!


I'M SUCH A FOOL!
I SHOULD'VE DONE MORE RESEARCH! WHO'D EVER HAVE GUESSED SHE'D STILL BE PLAYING SUCH AN OLD GAME! TALK ABOUT GOING AT YOUR OWN PACE!

LOSING FOCUS.
GOTTA TURN THIS AROUND!

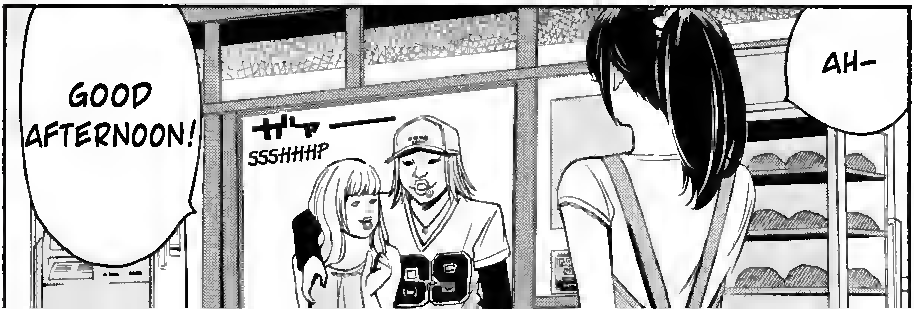

L-LET'S GET THE ITEM, THEN!
?!

WITH ALL FOUR OF US, IT'LL BE A SNAP!
WE'VE ALL STILL GOT MH3, WE'LL TEAM UP AND KILL THAT MONSTER!
REALLY?! HOORAY!
SO WHEN'S A GOOD TIME?
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY I'VE GOT SCHOOL AND MY SHIFT...
SUNDAY?
SUNDAY IS HER...
HOW ABOUT SUNDAY?

OH, YEAH...

TRUE, WHEN THE BOSS ISN'T AROUND YOU NEED TO BE ON HAND-
DAD'S NOT GONNA BE IN TOWN SUNDAY, SO I NEED TO BE AT HOME IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS HERE AT THE STORE... WE COULD PLAY AT THE HOUSE, THOUGH.

THE HOUSE?!
YOUR HOUSE?!
WHISH


GOOD AFTERNOON!
SSSHHHH
AH-

THE "SURPRISE" THEORY PART 2

THIS CHAPTER'S THEORY

PLANT TIME BOMBS FROM THE DAY YOU MEET HER. AT THE BARE MINIMUM, FIND OUT HER FAVORITE FOOD AND FLOWER, A PLACE SHE'D LIKE TO GO, AND HER BIRTHDAY.

LECTURE 17

THE "SURPRISE" THEORY (PART 3)

HAAAH
LOOKS LIKE THE TWO OF US AREN'T ENOUGH.
YUP...

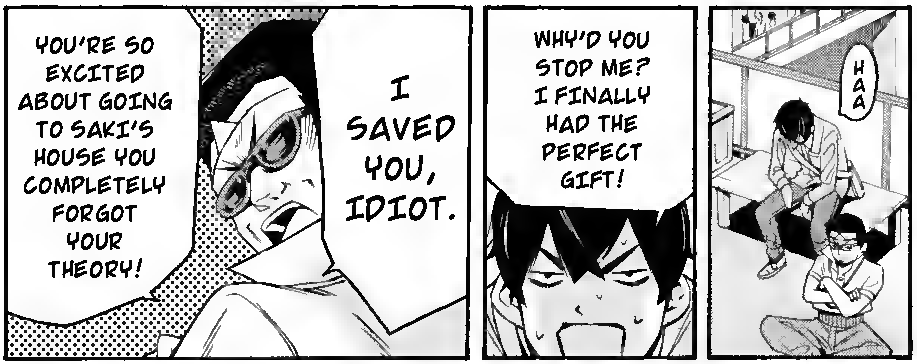
I'M SO SORRY, YARAHATA-KUN.
IT WAS FUMINA'S IDEA TO GET TOGETHER AND SHE COULDN'T MAKE IT.
SAME HERE.
BUT WASEDA HAD SOMETHING COME UP...
OH, SAKI-SAN!
THIS'S FOR YOU.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
YARAHATA-KUN,
HOW'D YOU KNOW-
FROM MORISHITA-SAN...
I WANTED TO GIVE IT TO YOU AFTER WE BEAT THE MONSTER...
CAN I OPEN IT?
PLEASE!

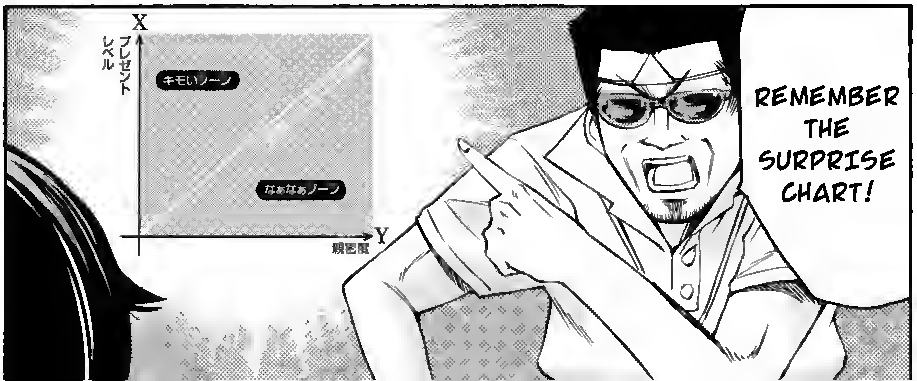
A HARRY WINSTON RING?!
I-I'M NOT USED TO GIVING GIRLS PRESENTS, SO I FIGURED SOME KIND OF ACCESSORY WOULD BE OKAY.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S SIZED TO MY RING FINGER...
OH, I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR SIZE, SO I JUST GUESSED.
THAT WON'T DO. WE'LL TAKE IT BACK AND GET IT-
BUH?
WHO?
SAYS...

I THINK IT'S FINE WHERE IT IS.
S-SAKI-SAN?!
YARAHATA-KUN...

I'VE ALWAYS...
¥ 800000
¥ 580000
UM,
I'LL TAKE IT.
ON THE 6-YEAR PAYMENT PLAN
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

AIYA!
THAT'LL BE A DESTROYED CREDIT RADING AND A LIFETIME OF DEBT, PLEASE!


YOU'RE SO EXCITED ABOUT GOING TO SAKI'S HOUSE YOU COMPLETELY FORGOT YOUR THEORY!
I SAVED YOU, IDIOT.
WHY'D YOU STOP ME? I FINALLY HAD THE PERFECT GIFT!
HAA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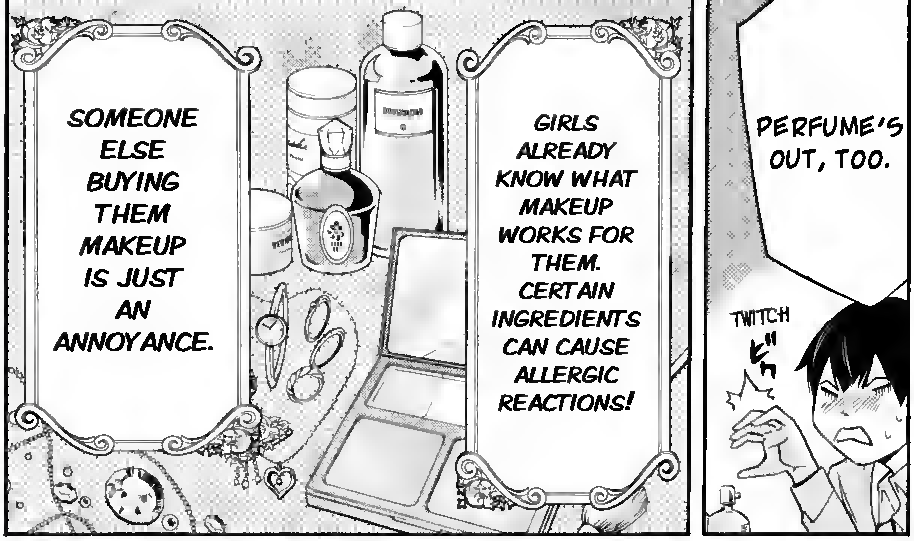
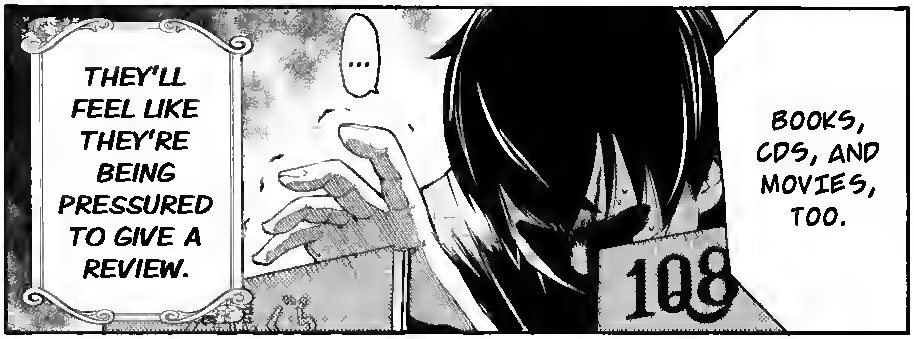
プレゼントレベル
キモいゾーン
なおはあゾーン
規定度
Y
REMEMBER THE SURPRISE CHART!

SHEESH!
I GET IT, I GET IT, EXPENSIVE IS NO GOOD.
THAT IS DEEP SPACE LEVELS OF CREEP!
PRESENT LEVEL
HARRY WINSTON RING
キラッ SHING
JUST A CO-WORKER GIVING A RING?!
IDEAL SURPRISE GIFT
INTIMACY
JUST A COWORKER
YOU'RE ABOUT TO COMMIT ROMANTIC SUICIDE!
ACK!

ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!
SAKI-SAN COULD WEAR THE PANTIES I GIVE HER
MAYBE CLOTHES?
PANTIES!
NICE!
THE GIRL WILL FEEL LIKE YOU'RE WONDERING IF SHE'S WEARING THEM OR NOT. WHICH IS WEIRD.
CLOTHES. UNDERWEAR. AND ACCESSORIES ARE NO GOOD.
M-MAKES SENSE.
EW!
FRRRRT
WRONG!

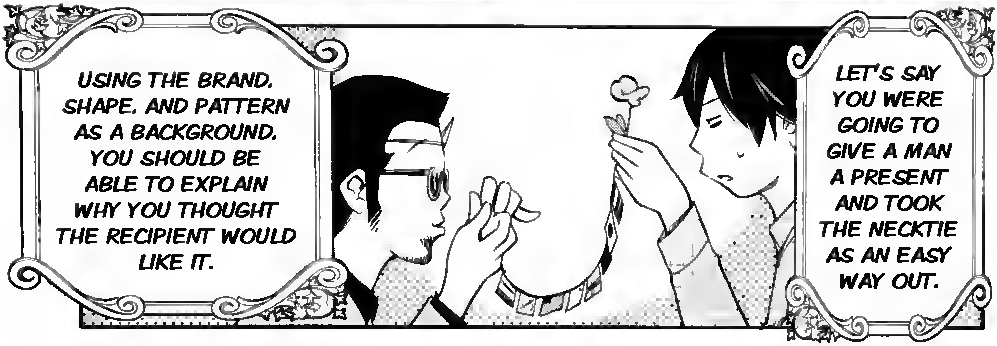

SOMEONE ELSE BUYING THEM MAKEUP IS JUST AN ANNOYANCE.
GIRLS ALREADY KNOW WHAT MAKEUP WORKS FOR THEM. CERTAIN INGREDIENTS CAN CAUSE ALLERGIC REACTIONS!
PERFUME'S OUT, TOO.
TWITCH
ピク


THEY'LL FEEL LIKE THEY'RE BEING PRESSURED TO GIVE A REVIEW.
...
BOOKS, CDS, AND MOVIES, TOO.
108

YOU'RE THE TEACHER, TELL ME THE ANSWER!
THEN WHAT THE HELL DO YOU GIVE AT THIS POINT?!

NNNGH!
CLENCH
THEY GIVE HINTS.
TEACHERS DON'T GIVE ANSWERS,

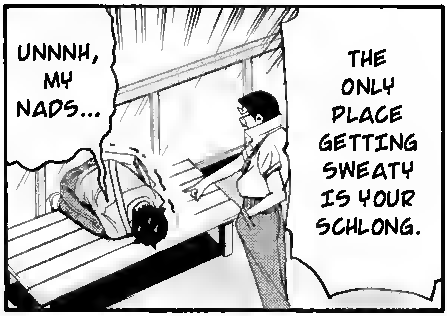
THE "SURPRISE" THEORY PART 3
POP
!?
PUT A CHARACTER AND BACKGROUND TO THE RECEPIENT, EVEN IF IT'S FORCED!


LET'S SAY YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE A MAN A PRESENT AND TOOK THE NECKTIE AS AN EASY WAY OUT.
USING THE BRAND, SHAPE, AND PATTERN AS A BACKGROUND, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU THOUGHT THE RECIPIENT WOULD LIKE IT.

ARE YOU DOING ANY OF THAT?
ARE YOU CONSIDERING SAKI'S BACKGROUND AND REALLY WORKING UP A SWEAT TRYING TO FIND A GIFT?!
DAMN RIGHT I AM! I SKIPPED CLASS TO GO SHOPPING TODAY!
?
ギュッ PULL

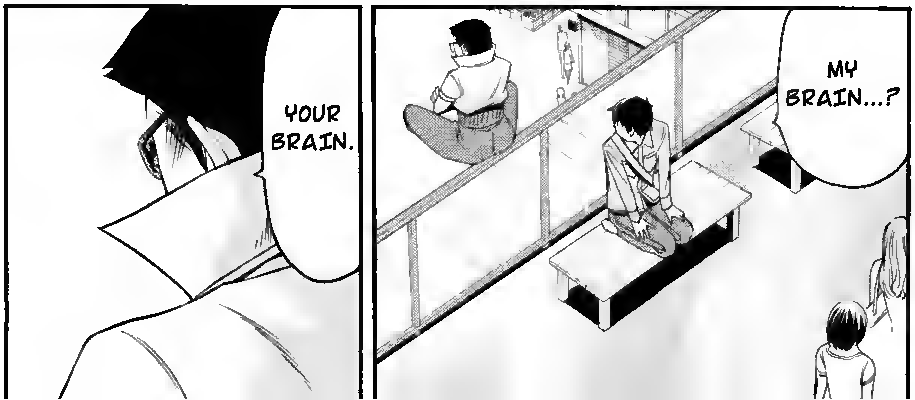
GYAAAH
CRUNCH
POWER GEYSER!

ARE YOU NOT?!
YOU'RE PICKING GIFTS BASED ON YOUR WANTS AND YOUR DESIRES,


UNNNH, MY NADS...
THE ONLY PLACE GETTING SWEATY IS YOUR SCHLONG.

POINT
STOP LETTING YOUR PANTS DO ALL THE THINKING!

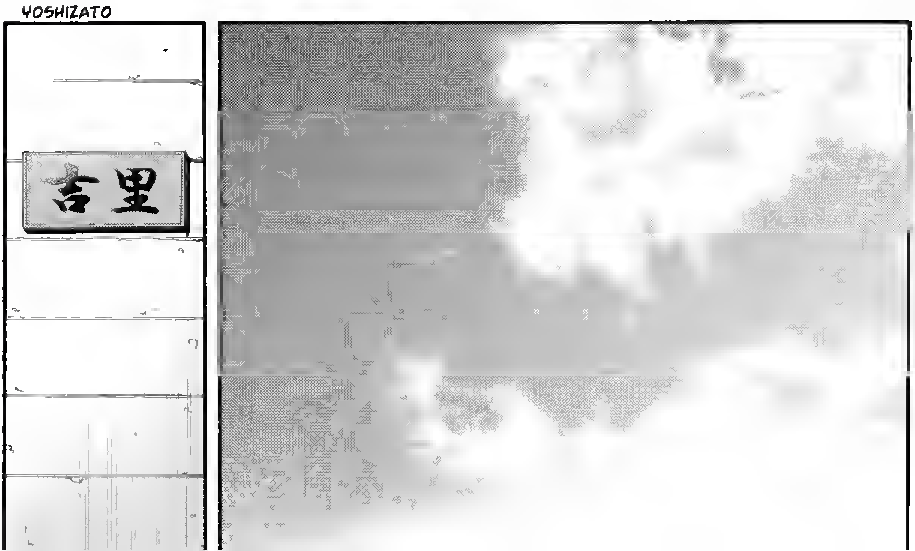
HAVE YOUR BRAIN SWEAT A LITTLE!

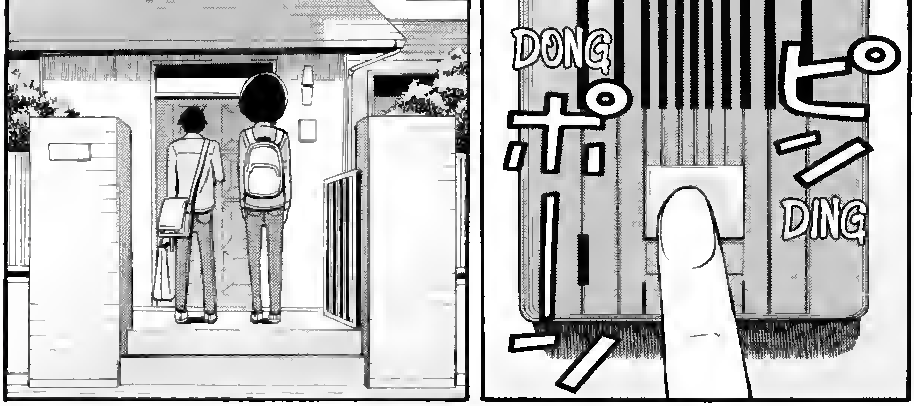

YOUR BRAIN.
MY BRAIN...?

THIS ISN'T A QUESTION OF MORALITY.
YOU NEED TO KNOW THE PERSON WELL.
THE PRESENT SHOULD DEMONSTRATE HOW HARD YOU WRACKED YOUR BRAIN TO PICK IT.
IF YOU TRIED TO MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF.
IT'LL BE OBVIOUS.
SURELY YOU'VE RECEIVED A GIFT AND THOUGHT, "DID THEY GRAB THE FIRST THING THEY SAW?"

THERE IS A CORRECT ANSWER OUT THERE.
DON'T BE AFRAID TO WORK UP A SWEAT.
THE RECEPIENT WILL BE MOVED.
THE GIFT FINALLY SETTLED ON AFTER LONG HOURS OF THOUGHT IS THE ONE THAT WILL HAVE REAL LOVE IN IT!
IT'S "FOCUS ON THE RECEPIENT'S CHARACTER AND BACKDROP!"
IF THERE'S A HINT IN ALL THIS.

I'VE
GOT
IT!


YOSHIZATO
吉里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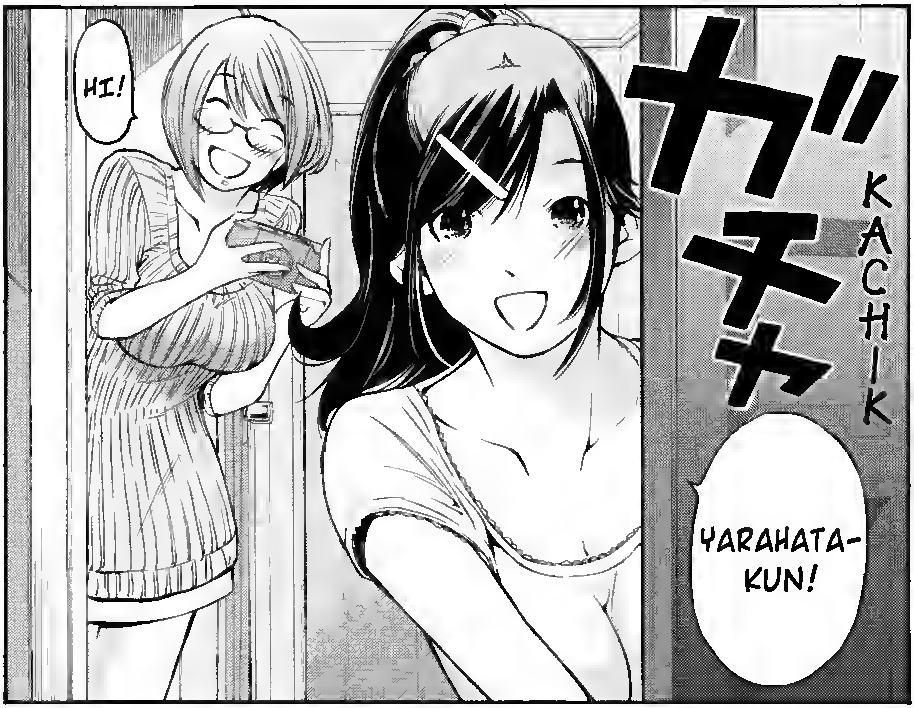
DING


HI!
ガチャ
KACHIK
YARAHATA-KUN!

COME ON IN!
SURE, THANKS.
L-LADIES.

STEP
タ.ン
STEP
タ.ン
STEP
タ.ン